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POLA D.

WE have had another debate in the House of Lords on the subject of Poland, or rather two speeches concerning the present state of that unfortunate country have been delivered by the Earl of Carnarvon and Earl Russell. The usual leader in the *Times* ridiculing the claims of Poland has also appeared, though it cannot be said this year, as it was last, that important public business directly affecting the interests of Englishmen has been set aside for the sake of the Poles. Lord Carnarvon had given notice of a question he intended to put to the Foreign Minister in connection with Polish affairs, and, at the suggestion of Lord Chelmsford, postponed doing so from Monday until Thursday, on which latter evening the House had really nothing else before it. Accordingly, the question now is, not whether the state of Poland ought to take precedence of subjects purely English, but whether, in the British Parliament, it ought ever to be considered at all.

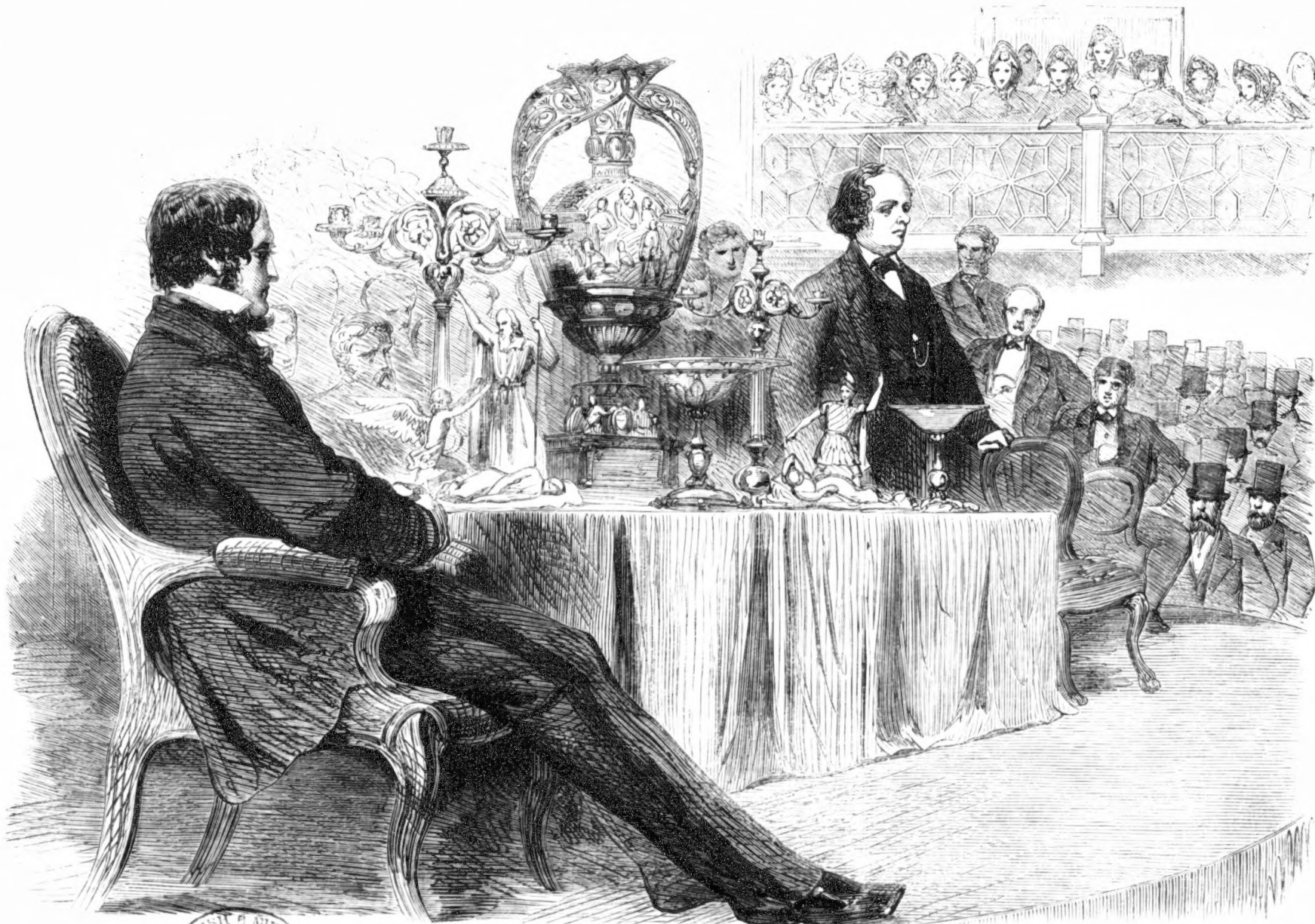
We are not of those who think that England is vitally interested in the restoration of Poland, so that it may serve as a barrier against a Power which for many years to come will have other and more important things to occupy itself with than projects of conquest. There are plenty of able men, however, in all parts of Western Europe who are of opinion that civilisation is constantly threatened by Russia, and that sooner or later we shall all be swallowed up by Russian hordes under some half-Germanised Genghis-Khan. This notion appears to be based on an imperfect appreciation of the fact that the Tartars, in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, overran the greater part of Russia, which naturally was opposed to such overrunning, and which, in fact, stemmed the invading torrent instead of aiding to swell it. It is founded also, and with better reason, on the wonderful development, or rather aggrandisement, through a combined exercise of cunning and force, of the Grand Duchy of Moscow, which in four centuries, from an insignificant province, has become the greatest empire of modern times. But, while certain foreign critics still fear that Russia may one day overwhelm us, the Russians themselves seem to think that their country will have quite enough to do

for the present if it can only manage to keep together; and in an address read by one of the Marshals of districts to the St. Petersburg Assembly of the Nobility, which called forth general expressions of assent, we find it distinctly stated that "the empire is threatened with dissolution." We do not believe in the dissolution of the Russian empire—not at least as any proximate probability; but neither, on the other hand, do we regard its prolonged existence as a continual threat to the peace and safety of Europe. It is not strong now; it will have to pass through a long and painful crisis before it can ever be strong again; and during this period of transition there is no saying what changes may not come upon it. During the constitutional agitation which began with the present year, and which, next year, will be recommenced, unless, in the meanwhile, some sort of representative institution be introduced, there has been manifested in Russia not only a strong desire to obtain "self-government" for the inhabitants of the empire in general, but also a particular wish for local self-government, and consequently for an entire reform of the actual system of centralisation. Decentralise Russia, and its power as an invading State goes at once; though, for defensive purposes, it would be stronger than ever. It would, in fact, cease to be the mere military colony on a gigantic scale which hitherto it has been, and would possess power as a nation. A constitutional country may doubtless, like any other, fall into the weakness of coveting its neighbour's territory; but, as a rule, despotisms and republics are more inclined to indulge in schemes of unlawful ambition than limited monarchies; and it is towards limited monarchy that Russia has been tending during the last few years, and since the emancipation of the serfs with remarkable rapidity, and that, if not with the active co-operation, at least without any positive antagonism, on the part of the Emperor.

It seems to us, then, that Russia will even be either greatly weakened by internal struggles, or that she will be constitutionalised and in a fair way to resolve herself, sooner or later, into a collection of federated provinces. By such a federation Poland could not be oppressed as she now is by the Russians,

and, sooner or later, she might escape from it. Be that as it may, we cannot see that England is in any way called upon to erect a barrier (in the shape of Poland) against the supposed aggressiveness of Russia. Probably no such barrier is required; certainly, no such barrier can be raised, except after defeating—as an indispensable preliminary—the forces of Russia, Austria, and Prussia combined.

But, because there are difficulties, amounting to impossibilities, in the way of reconstituting Poland by means of foreign aid, does it follow that Poland ought to be abandoned by foreign nations—that is to say, by England and France, the only two who were ever disposed to assist her? Certainly not. Motives of policy apart, we have a duty to perform as parties to the Treaty of Vienna, which, as every one knows, guarantees to all Poles, whether subjects of Russia, Austria, or Prussia, "national institutions and a national representation." The Powers who signed the treaty never guaranteed the Constitution granted to the kingdom of Poland by the Emperor Alexander, as is sometimes asserted, but did guarantee "national institutions and a national representation" in general terms; and their right to inquire how far the Polish clauses of the treaty are observed is scarcely denied by the Russians themselves. The Emperor Nicholas, it is true, maintained that the Poles forfeited all claims to "national representation" by the insurrection of 1830 (their Constitution, by-the-way, was virtually suppressed some years before); but at the signing of the Treaty of Paris, after the Crimean War, the Russian emissary did not complain of France and England inquiring how the Poles were governed in the kingdom, and Count Orloff even replied that the Emperor "would do more for them than they could possibly expect," or words to that effect. To prove that the Russian Government fully recognises our right to see that the Polish clauses of the Treaty of Vienna are observed (were it otherwise, what would be the use of signing treaties at all?) we need only call attention to what the Earl of Carnarvon mentioned the other night in the House of Lords—viz., that Prince Gortschakoff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, addressed



PRESENTATION OF THE TESTIMONIAL TO MR CHARLES KEAN AT ST. JAMES'S HALL.

last year a circular letter to the foreign Courts announcing the introduction of certain reforms in the manner of governing the kingdom. Do we announce our meditated reforms to foreign Ministers? No; nor do we taunt Russia with so doing as regards Poland. But the fact that she does so, proves that the right of certain foreign States to interest themselves in Polish affairs is fully recognised by her. Alexander I. used to boast that he had forced the European Powers to guarantee representative institutions to Poland. No great pressure was required; but it appears certain that the amiable, and for a time liberal-minded, Alexander was really pleased at being bound, in spite of a certain amount of Russian antipathy, to maintain a liberal form of government in the country of which Europe had offered him the crown. It is known, also, that he intended to unite to the kingdom of Poland all those Polish provinces which Russia had taken possession of at the various partitions, and which, at the accession of the Emperor Nicholas, were declared to be integral portions of the Russian empire. Unfortunately, he did not bind himself, but only reserved to himself the privilege of giving this extension to his Polish kingdom; and it is only with reference to this kingdom that the Powers who signed the Treaty of Vienna have any right to interfere.

That they possess this right there can be no doubt, since Russia herself acknowledges it; and they would be equally justified in calling for a strict observance of the treaty from Prussia and Austria, who, like Russia, have broken through the Polish clauses in a variety of ways. But how is this right in question to be exercised? Not by perpetually protesting to the Russian Government, which knows well, and has always been told by the English Ministers themselves, that England's protests on the subject of Poland are protests, and nothing more; but by keeping the Russian Government and the English people, and Europe in general, familiar with the idea that certain treaties exist, and that their non-observance is culpable and disgraceful. Every word that is uttered and reported in the British Parliament is heard in Russia—at least by the Government and the enlightened classes; and there are no people in the world more sensitive to European criticism than the modern Russians.

Accordingly, though we have not much faith in the necessity, and none whatever in the possibility, of raising up Poland as a barrier against Russian aggression, we think certain concessions may be gained for the Poles, and that it is the evident duty of our statesmen to do as much as possible for them in that respect, until they shall stand once more in the position which they occupied in the kingdom after the promulgation of the Constitution consequent on the signing of the Treaty of 1815. Some persons seem to imagine that it is useless to take any further steps on behalf of Poland, for the simple reason that Poland has ceased to exist. But it is now ninety years since the first partition was perpetrated; and, in spite of fresh partitions, massacres, banishments, confiscations, and tortures of all kinds inflicted on the Poles, with the view of destroying their nationality, they are more united and more thoroughly national now than they were in 1772.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. CHARLES KEAN.

On Saturday afternoon last a large number of the subscribers to the testimonial to Mr. Charles Kean assembled in St. James's Hall for the purpose of witnessing the ceremony of presentation. The attendance comprised ladies as well as gentlemen. The Duke of Newcastle, who was to have presented the testimonial, was prevented from being present, having been summoned to attend her Majesty at Windsor. His Grace's place was supplied by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Charles Kean met with a most enthusiastic reception. Mrs. and Miss Kean, on taking their seats in one of the side galleries, were also greeted with cordial cheering. The testimonial consists of no fewer than four pieces, or series, of which the following is a description:—

A VASE IN OXYDISED SILVER.—The relief on the body contains portrait models of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean in the plays of "Lear," "Hamlet," "Henry IV.," "Winter's Tale," "King John," "Richard III.," "Much Ado about Nothing," "Henry VIII.," "Merchant of Venice," with figures of Shakespeare and Tragedy and Comedy. The neck is enriched with relief in medallion of Queens Elizabeth and Victoria. On the foot are effigies attendant on Queen Mab, supporting medallion portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean. The pedestal contains views of Eton College from the river, the Eton Fete on the 14th of June, the schoolyard, and the inscription.

TWO CANDLABRAS FOR FIVE LIGHTS.—Upon the bases are portraits of Shakespeare, in low relief—

o'er canopy'd with sweet woodbine,
With sweet musk roses, and with g'anties.

The plinths are enriched with masks of Tragedy and Comedy in bold relief. The material, oxydised silver, relieved by gilding.

FOUR DESKSET-STANDS, in oxydised silver, richly decorated, bearing severally on the base a subject, in low relief, from Shakespeare's plays of "Henry IV.," (First Part), "The Merry Wives of Windsor," "As You Like It," "Twelfth Night," and on the stems, in separate shields, the monogram, C. J. E. K.

TWO GROUPS in oxydised silver, the first illustrative of Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream," containing a portrait model of Miss Chapman as Oberon, with figures of Titania and Puck. The second illustrative of Shakespeare's "Tempest," containing portrait models of Mr. Charles Kean, as Prospero, and of Mrs. Kean, as Miranda, attended by Ariel.

The following is the inscription:—

Presented to Charles John Kean, Esq., F.S.A., by many of his fellow-Etonians, together with numerous friends and admirers among the public, as a tribute to the genius of a great actor, and in recognition of his unremitting efforts to improve the tone and elevate the character of the British stage.

The testimonial was manufactured by Messrs. Hunt and Roskell, from designs by Mr. H. H. Armistead.

The Chairman, after reading a letter from the Duke of Newcastle, and having made a few preliminary remarks in reference to the circumstances under which the testimonial had been originally proposed, said it would not be necessary for him to dilate at any great length on the feeling which had induced them to subscribe for the testimonial before them. He only wished them to bear in mind that the testimonial was an acknowledgment of Mr. Kean's eminent services in improving the tone and elevating the character of the British stage, and he must say that the exertions of Mr. Kean with that object were not small. It was no trifling matter to work in the elevation of the moral tone of the drama. It belonged to no particular age or country, to no particular race or form of religion; it had passed through all

countries and ages; and even Religion herself had not disdained to acknowledge the drama as her direct handmaiden. Whether the influence of the drama was directly or indirectly felt, its moral effects were most important. The drama was characteristic of the whole history of man and of the country; and they should recollect that the land in which they lived had given birth to the greatest dramatist in the world. Mr. Kean had been a most energetic and zealous agent in the revival of that great man's works, and had united, as it were, Shakspeare to the public mind. It was for such services as these that the graving-tool of the artist had recorded on those beautiful vases the feelings of their hearts. They must look to the fact that Mr. Kean was one who had laboured in the noble and holy cause of endeavouring to dis-sociate the elements of the drama from all moral and social contamination. That was the work to which Mr. Kean had given many anxious years and all the energies of his mind; and he (Mr. Gladstone) must say, from what he had seen of the profession, that there were few who could be compared with Mr. Kean in pursuing the profession, as all professions should be pursued—that was, with all his understanding and heart. That being so, he had good cause to renew the expression of his sentiments with regard to Mr. Kean. This offering must be to Mr. Kean an acknowledgment for the past, and an encouragement for the future in all his labours, and he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) hoped that to see Mr. Kean surrounded as he was by his fellow-countrymen and countrywomen would cause others to follow in his steps, and in the practice of their profession to endeavour, as Mr. Kean had endeavoured, to improve the tone and elevate the character of the stage in this country.

Mr. Charles Kean came forward to return thanks, and was most loudly applauded. If, he said, his attempt to revive the drama had been only supposed to please the eye, his motives had been greatly misunderstood, for his object had simply been, through that gateway of knowledge, to reach the understandings of the people by whose patronage he was honoured. It had ever been his earnest desire that the works of England's greatest dramatist should be presented in all their beauty and grandeur; that the style of architecture and costume should be portrayed in all its splendour or simplicity; and that pictorial art should be combined with the sublime in poetry. It had always been his ambition to make the stage something more than an attractive and evanescent amusement; he wished it to be elevating and instructive. He had no other reward to look for but the harvest he had gained from the recognition of his efforts; but he did what he was doing with a consciousness that he was paying the tribute of his gratitude and admiration to the genius of the great poet under whose shadow he was brought up, and by whose means he had been conducted to the distinction which he had acquired. He was happy and proud to say that his efforts to advance an object which appeared so desirable had received the constant support of his friends the public, and to them he owed a debt of gratitude which he could never repay; for the public breath had wafted him over the ocean of a long and stormy career, and he believed that the public approval of his conduct was manifested in that splendid testimonial before them. He then referred to the days he had passed at Eton; by the students who had known him there the memorial was originated. He thanked the subscribers on the part of his wife, who rejoiced not in her own but in her husband's honour.

A round of hearty cheers was given for Mr. and Mrs. Kean, but no further speeches were made.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Corps Législatif adopted the Address in whole by a majority of 244 votes to 9. The Address was presented to the Emperor on Sunday by Count de Morny, and, in reply, his Majesty said:—

The adoption of the Corps Législatif is the more valuable to me as the discussion of the Address offered a spectacle worthy of attention. As, unhappily, extreme opinions are most forward to display themselves, and as respect for the liberty of speech causes them to be heard in silence, the public often take this silence for tacit acquiescence. But your Address has now dispersed all these clouds, has put matters in their true light, and re-established confidence. I receive with real satisfaction the expression of the feelings of the Corps Législatif. People have been too much moved by the simple announcement of certain financial measures. A system can only be well judged when taken as a whole. The one proposed contains at once augmentations and diminutions of taxes and resources for extraordinary public works which can either be developed or restricted. This question will, however, be discussed by common agreement; and I do not doubt that, with the spirit of conciliation which should animé to all, the Committee on the Budget and the Council of State will act in concert to bring about a solution in conformity with the wishes of the Chamber and the general interest. Be good enough, therefore, to be my interpreter, and to express to your colleagues my gratitude for the concurrence, which I am convinced will never fail me. Assure them that I have no desire to separate myself too soon from a Chamber whose enlightenment and patriotism afford to the country all the guarantees which it can desire.

There is little other news of importance from France. A report of the death of the Pope was very prevalent at Paris on Monday, and, in connection with the accounts of the popular enthusiasm by which the tour of Garibaldi in Italy is marked, leading to the apprehensions of war, caused a panic at the Bourse, and decline in the Rentes.

SPAIN.

A Madrid journal of the 20th states that General Jauch has been obliged to intrench himself with six battalions in the fort of the Custom House of Tetuan in order to protect the supplies of provisions which are kept there for the use of the army of occupation, as fears were entertained that the Kabyles might make an attack on that position.

The *Official Gazette* says that orders have been transmitted to General Prim to negotiate upon the part of Spain only after the entry into the city of Mexico shall have taken place.

PORTUGAL.

News has been received from Loubo, in Western Africa, announcing that the Portuguese troops had fallen into an ambush. Major Niazil and fifty men were killed by the natives.

ITALY.

The Rattazzi Ministry have obtained a victory in the appointment of the President to the Chamber of Deputies. Their nominee, Commander Tecchio, was elected by a good majority over the Opposition candidate, Signor Lanza. A discussion and vote in the Chamber relative to the policy of the Government has also resulted in a Ministerial victory. A fusion of the southern with the regular army is about to be effected. A seventh corps-d'armée is to be created, into which the volunteers of the southern army are to be incorporated, together with part of this year's recruits. The command of this seventh corps is to be intrusted to General Garibaldi, and thus the fusion of the southern army with the regular one will be complete. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has issued a circular explanatory of the Government's foreign policy. The principles laid down are much the same as those of the former Government—namely, the right of Italy to be recognised as a kingdom; Rome to be the residence of the Pope, and at the same time the centre of the Italian Government; and the solution of the Venetian question in accordance with the wishes of Italy.

Garibaldi has been making a tour through the towns of Northern and Central Italy, organising the ride associations, of which Prince Humbert is president and the General vice-president. He was everywhere received with enthusiasm. He arrived in Milan on the 21st, and his reception is described as being of the warmest kind.

At night the whole city was illuminated. Garibaldi addressed the people from the Hôtel de Ville, and, in answer to the reiterated cry of "Rome and Venice!" he recommended the people to practise themselves in arms, and promised that Rome and Venice should be delivered, and the whole of Italy united. He is also reported to have said, at a meeting of several Frenchmen, Hungarians, and Poles, that the future of Italy depended upon her strict alliance with other nations, especially with France. A strict alliance, however, must be maintained, not a preponderance of one nation over the other.

A programme agreed on by Kossuth, Klapka, and Turr, in reference to Hungary, has been published in an Italian paper; according to which Hungary is to be established as a constitutional kingdom, to the exclusion of the house of Hapsburg; civil equality to be enjoyed by all the inhabitants, and an offensive and defensive alliance to be formed between Hungary, Servia, Croatia, and Roumelia.

The Pope has again been ill, and confined to his bed the greater part of the day. The strength of his Holiness is much prostrated, and the soreness of his legs causes him great irritation. His Holiness had suspended his audiences. The report of the Pope's death which was circulated in Paris seems to be without foundation. The Roman police are engaged in making arrests and domiciliary visits. The Marquis de Lavalette has had a private audience of the Pope, and has left for Paris.

A disturbance took place in Naples on the 15th, arising out of a sermon preached by a priest who denounced the Neapolitan students as enemies of the Pope and the Church. Some rumour went abroad that the students meant to punish the priest, and a demonstration was got up by a few Ultramontanes, which ended in a "row," calling for the interference of the National Guard. There was nothing very serious, however, in the affair, except that some persons were wounded with pistols and stones.

A demonstration in favour of Italian unity is said to have taken place in Verona. The report comes from Milan; but no authority is given except mere rumour. In Mantua several Italian and Hungarian soldiers had been arrested.

AUSTRIA.

The Lower House of the Austrian Council of Empire has been engaged in a debate upon the financial measures of the Government. The Finance Minister's published defence of his policy was attacked; but the Chamber accepted the condition of Europe in 1860 as a justification of the increased military force. Press prosecutions in Austria have resulted just now in two condemnations—the editor of the *Wanderer* to eight months' imprisonment, and the editor of the *Press* to confinement for fourteen days.

PRUSSIA.

The anniversary of the King's birthday was celebrated on the 22nd with the usual ceremonies.

Although the composition of the new Ministry is much disliked, the people of Prussia appear to maintain a calm and dignified attitude. Letters from all parts of the country describe the reception of the Liberal deputies in their respective districts as having been most enthusiastic, and it appears almost certain that the old members will, with scarcely an exception, be re-elected.

The following proclamation in reference to the elections has been issued by the King:—

I request the Ministry of State to immediately take the necessary steps for carrying out the elections. It is the mission of my public authorities not only to secure the conscientious fulfilment of the prescriptions of the law, but also to afford to the electors explanations which leave no doubt as to the principles of my Government, and to oppose the influence of hostile parties who endeavour to unsettle the natural tendencies of the public mind, as was manifest on the occasion of the last elections. I firmly adhere to the principles which I stated in November, 1858, to the Ministry of State. These principles, rightly interpreted, still remain to direct the policy of my Government. But the interpretations which have been erroneously attached to these principles have produced complications, the happy solution of which is the next task of the present Government. In order to bring about the further development of the present Constitution, the legislative and administrative are to start from Liberal principles; but we can only hope to obtain the blessing of progress if, after ripe and quiet examination of the present state of things, we know how to satisfy real wants, and to render available those elements of existing institutions which possess vitality. Then only will the influence of the laws bear a real conservative character, while haste and too rapidity only have a destructive effect. It is my duty and my earnest wish to ensure the complete effectiveness of the Constitution to which I have taken an oath, and of the representative rights of the country, but also in the same measure to maintain the rights of the Crown, and to maintain them in that undiminished strength which is necessary to Prussia for the execution of her mission. The weakening of the Crown would be greatly injurious to the fatherland. This conviction also lives in the hearts of my subjects. It is only necessary for me to explain clearly and openly to them my real thoughts for their welfare. As regards my foreign policy, especially towards Germany, I maintain without any change the policy which I have followed up to the present time. The Ministry of State will take care that the principles which I have stated are duly carried out during the approaching elections. Then I can expect with confidence that all electors who are faithful to me and my house will support my Government with united strength. I enjoin my Ministry of State to give instructions to the authorities according to these views, and to recall to all my functionaries their special duties.

The Prussian Minister of the Interior has issued a circular to all the functionaries of the kingdom, pointing out that there is an antagonism between the Government of the State and democracy, the object of the latter being to encroach on the Crown and fix the centre of gravity in the Chamber of Deputies, and calling on them to use all lawful means to oppose, in the ensuing elections, the return of members of the Democratic party or the party of progress.

RUSSIA.

The nobles of Tver have addressed a memorial to the Emperor on the abolition of serfdom and the position in which they now stand between the Emperor and the people. Fully approving of the abolition of serfdom, the nobles declare that the measure will not be complete without the abolition of the existing artificial divisions amongst the classes of his Majesty's subjects. The people will still believe that they are *tailleable et corvéable*, and this misunderstanding is a menace to public safety. The nobles, therefore, implore his Majesty to adopt the only means which will ensure tranquillity—viz., to give the peasants possession of their land. They further point out that the nobles at present are exempt from various charges. They beg his Majesty to authorise them to share in the payment of imposts and charges, each one according to his fortune. "Besides these fiscal privileges," they say, "we still enjoy the exclusive right of furnishing the men who govern the people. We regard this right as illegal, and we beg your Majesty to extend it to all classes." They further declare that the reforms initiated by his Majesty cannot be accomplished by the bureaucracy; and, further, that all reforms will be useless so long as the people are not consulted.

The sincerity of the Emperor of Russia's intentions to grant liberal institutions to his subjects is proved by the contents of a telegram received from St. Petersburg. The freedom of the press is the foundation of liberal institutions, and the Emperor, desirous of promoting it, has issued a decree ordering several modifications in the censorship, and appointed a commission to revise the whole law of the press. The censorship of scientific works has been at once abolished.

THE HERZEGOVINA.

The Paris papers publish a telegram, dated Ragusa, March 20, according to which the insurgents and Montenegrins had been dispersed. Darvish Pacha, with 10,000 men, had made a reconnaissance on the frontiers of Montenegro. The Turks had taken several strategic positions.

The Paris papers of Thursday publish a despatch from the Herzegovina stating that 800 Turkish soldiers who had been surrounded at Criniza had surrendered to the insurgents. The latter had previously repulsed the troops which came to the relief of the Turks.

GREECE.

The accounts as to the state of affairs in Greece are contradictory. From Athens it is announced that the Royal troops had taken the outworks at Nauplia, that a deputation had arrived in the capital imploring the clemency of the King, and that the insurrection might be considered as terminated. Other statements, however, represent the successes of the Government troops as very insignificant, and the result of a surprise. It is said that the French Government intends to send two staff officers to the scene of action in order to clear up the mystery that hangs over the real state of affairs in Greece. An insurrection which had broken out in Syria has been suppressed, and a number of the insurgents killed or made prisoners.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

GENERAL NEWS—THE ARMY ON THE POTOMAC.

By intelligence from New York we learn that the Federal army on the Potomac had at length made a forward movement. The advance, it appears, commenced on the 10th. The army met with no opposition. Centreville, which was supposed to be held in force by the Confederates, was found deserted, and on arriving at Manassas that was also entirely abandoned. The Confederates had burned everything they could not carry away, had destroyed the railway bridges, and left nothing but desolation behind them. It was rumoured that they had fallen back on Gordonsville, but it is evident nothing certain is known of their movements. The Federals have occupied all the positions abandoned by the Confederates.

Commodore Dupont's naval expedition, which left Port Royal, captured and occupied Brunswick. The expedition then proceeded to Cumberland Sound, the entrance to the harbour of Fernandina, Florida, and took possession of Fort Clinch, which the Confederates had evacuated. The Federals captured twelve large guns. They also occupied Fernando and St. Mary's, the male inhabitants having left.

The Confederates are reported to be making a grand stand at Chavonoon, Tennessee, a place of great natural strength, at the junction of four railroads.

It is reported that the Confederates are fortifying Island No. 10 in the Mississippi, below Columbus. Beauregard has set out to take the command there.

CONFEDERATE NAVAL VICTORY.

An important naval battle, or rather two battles, have been fought in the Chesapeake. The Confederate iron-clad steam-ship Merrimac and the Confederate steamers Yorktown and Jamestown left Norfolk on the morning of the 8th inst., and attacked the Federal sailing-frigates Cumberland and Congress at the mouth of James River. The Merrimac received the broadsides of the Cumberland and Congress at 100 yards without sustaining any damage. The Merrimac then ran into the Cumberland with her iron prow, literally laying open her sides; she then drew off, fired a broadside into the Cumberland, and again dashed at her, knocking in her side, and left her to sink. The Congress, which had kept up a brisk engagement with the Yorktown and Jamestown, then struck her colours and surrendered. The Federal frigates Minnesota and St. Lawrence were being towed to the assistance of the Cumberland and the Congress, when the Minnesota got aground and could render no assistance. During the following night the new Federal iron-plated Ericsson steamer Monitor arrived at Fortress Monroe, and in the morning was attacked by the Merrimac. These two vessels fought four hours, during which they nearly touched each other: the Monitor finally succeeded in forcing a hole in the port side of the Merrimac, which thereupon retired with the Confederate fleet to Norfolk. The Monitor was uninjured. The Confederates set fire to the Congress and blew her up. Fifty men are supposed to have been killed on board the Congress, and 150 were killed and wounded on board the Cumberland. Nobody in the Monitor was hurt. The sides, bows, and stern of the Merrimac were covered with sloping iron plates, extending two feet below the water line, and meeting above like the roof of a house. At her bows, on her water line, were two sharp iron points resembling paws, six or seven feet apart. Her number of guns is stated to be ten or twelve, which were seen projecting from long elliptical portholes. The Merrimac does not appear to have been seriously damaged. Some further details of this conflict will be found in another page.

This engagement is not likely to exercise any influence on the fate of the war, but is important as being the first fight that has ever taken place between iron-clad ships.

BATTLE IN ARKANSAS.

General Halleck officially reports that the Federal army of the South West, under General Curtis, had gained a victory, after three days' hard fighting, at Sugar Creek, Arkansas, over the combined Confederate forces of Van Dorn, Price, and McCulloch. Guns, flags, and provisions were captured in large quantities. The Federal cavalry were pursuing the enemy. The Federal loss is estimated at 1000 killed and wounded. The enemy's loss is stated to be larger. General McCulloch is reported to have been killed. The following is an extract from General Curtis's official report:—

On Thursday, the 6th inst., the enemy commenced an attack on my right wing, assailing and following the rearward of a detachment under General Sigel to my main lines on Sugar Creek Hollow, but ceased firing when he met my reinforcements, about four p.m.

During the night I became convinced that he had moved on so as to attack my right or rear. Therefore, early on the 7th, I ordered a change of front to the right, my right, which then became my left, still resting on Sugar Creek Hollow.

This brought my line across Pea Ridge, with my right resting on Head Creek Timber Hollow, which is the head of Big Sugar Creek. I also ordered an immediate advance of the cavalry and light artillery, under Colonel Osterhaus, with orders to attack and break what I supposed would be the reinforced line of the enemy. This movement was in progress when the enemy, at 11 a.m., commenced an attack on my right. The fight continued mainly at these points during the day, the enemy having gained the point held by the command of Colonel Carr at Cross Timber Hollow; but he was entirely repulsed, with the fall of the commander, McCulloch, in the centre, by the forces under Colonel Davis. The plan of attack on the centre was gallantly carried forward by Colonel Osterhaus, who was immediately sustained and supported by Colonel Davis's entire division, supported also by General Sigel's command, which had remained till near the close of the day on the left. Colonel Carr's division held the right, under a galling continuous fire, all day. In the evening, firing having entirely ceased in the centre, and the right being now on the left, I reinforced the right by a portion of the second division under General Asbroath. Before the day closed I was convinced that the enemy had concentrated his main force on the right. I commenced another change of front, forward, so as to face the enemy where he had deployed on my right front in a strong position. The change had only been partially effected, but was in full progress, when at sunrise on the 8th my right and centre renewed the firing, which was immediately answered by the enemy with renewed energy along the whole extent of his line. My left, under General Sigel, moved close to the hills occupied by the enemy, driving him from the heights, and advancing steadily towards the head of the Hollows. I immediately ordered the centre and right wing forward, the right turning the left of the enemy, and cross-firing on his centre. This final position of the enemy was in the arc of a circle. A charge of infantry, extending throughout the whole line, completely routed the whole rebel force, which retired in great confusion, but rather safely, through the deep, impassable defiles of Cross Timber.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S MESSAGE ON SLAVERY.

The following is the text of President Lincoln's Message to Congress concerning the abolition of slavery:—

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives, I recommend the adoption of a joint resolution by your honourable bodies which shall substantially be as follows:—

Resolved, That the United States ought to co-operate with any State which may adopt a gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State in its discretion, to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such change of system.

If the proposition contained in the resolution does not meet the approval

of the Congress and the country, there is the end; but if it does command such approval I deem it of importance that the States and people immediately interested should be at once distinctly notified of the fact, so that they may begin to consider whether to accept or reject it.

The Federal Government would find its highest interest in such a measure as one of the most efficient means of self-preservation. The leaders of the existing insurrection entertain the hope that the Government will ultimately be forced to acknowledge the independence of some part of the disaffected region, and that all the Slave States north of such parts will then say, "The Union for which we have struggled being already gone, we now choose to go with the Southern section." To deprive them of this hope substantially ends the rebellion, and the initiation of emancipation completely derails them of it as to all the States initiating it. The point is, not that all the States tolerating slavery would very soon, if at all, initiate emancipation, but that, while the effort is equally made to all, the more Northern shall, by such initiation, make it certain to the more Southern that in no event will the former ever join the latter in their proposed Confederacy. I say "initiation" because, in my judgment, gradual and not sudden emancipation is better for all.

In the mere financial or pecuniary view, any member of Congress, with the census tables and the Treasury reports before him, can readily see for himself how soon the current expenditures of this war would purchase at a fair valuation all the slaves in any named State.

Such a proposition on the part of the general Government sets up no claim of a right, by Federal authority, to interfere with slavery within State limits, referring as it does the absolute control of the subject in each case to the State and its people immediately interested. It is proposed as a matter perfectly of choice with them.

In the annual message last December I thought fit to say, "The Union must be preserved, and hence all indispensable means must be employed." I said this not hastily, but deliberately. War has been, and continues to be, an indispensable means to this end. A practical recognition of the national authority would render the war unnecessary, and it would at once cease. If, however, resistance continues, the war must also continue, and it is impossible to foresee all the incidents which may attend and all the ruin which may follow it. Such as may seem indispensable, or may obviously promote greater efficiency towards ending the struggle, must and will come.

The proposition now made, though an offer only, I hope it may be esteemed no offence to ask whether the pecuniary consideration tendered would not be of more value to the States and private persons concerned than are the institution and property in it, in the present aspect of affairs?

While it is true that the adoption of the proposed resolution would be merely initiatory, and not within itself a practical measure, it is recommended, in the hope that it would soon lead to important results. In full view of my great responsibility to my God and to my country, I earnestly beg the attention of Congress and the people to the subject.

The House of Representatives have passed a resolution in accordance with President Lincoln's suggestion.

IRELAND.

IRISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GREAT EXHIBITION.—Amongst the novelties to be exhibited at the exhibition will be a type-setting machine invented by Mr. William Mitchell, brother to John Mitchell, the "patriot." This machine, it appears, is the result of ten years' labour. Mr. H. Abbott, proprietor of the Anglinian quarry, determined not to allow the name of Galway to be absent from the list of towns from which contributions will be sent, has forwarded an immense slab of black marble. This massive piece weighs five tons, and is 21½ ft. in length, 3½ ft. in width, and 9 in. in depth.

THE LONGFORD ELECTION.—Resident magistrates, who are the paid officers of the Crown, have collected a large body of evidence in the shape of sworn informations which have been laid before the Government in reference to the late Longford election. One of the local magistrates, a gentleman of high position in the county, in a letter which appears in a Dublin paper, gives a recital of some of the facts sworn to which shows that the worst was not told at the time. He states that for nights before the election the county was patrolled by bands of armed fellows, breaking into houses, swearing people not to vote for Colonel White, destroying windows, smashing doors, ploughs, and other implements of agriculture that came in their way. The savage attacks made on those who had the courage "to go against the people" were beyond counting. The excitement in the chapels on the previous Sunday was something fearful. One priest prayed that God might shorten the days of any of his flock who should vote for Colonel White. In another chapel the Curate was so excited while haranguing the people that he went into a fit and has since died. The supporters of Major O'Reilly went in armed bands through the country in the night, firing their guns and pistols. Another act is recorded so atrocious that it is better to relate it in the words of the magistrate:—"An armed party broke into the house of a respectable man, living, I believe, on Lord Granard's estate. Not finding him at home, and failing to induce his wife to say where he was concealed, they took her infant out of the cradle and held it over the fire till the wretched mother confessed where the object of their search lay hid." Since the election, those who voted for Colonel White have been punished in a variety of ways. Some have had their seats in chapel broken and thrown out; others have had guards set on their houses to prevent their customers from dealing with them; others were put in "Coventry," and no one dared to speak to them. A petition against the return of Major O'Reilly has been lodged and printed.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP ON DUELING.—The Most Rev. Dr. Dixon, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and "Primate of all Ireland," has published a letter in the Dublin Roman Catholic journals, in which he says:—"I have been greatly shocked by the tone which, for some time past, has pervaded, and which continues to pervade, public meetings in this country, letters in newspapers, and so forth; and I am anxious to protest thus publicly against the notions whereby this tone appears to be an indication." He disclaims any intention of attacking The O'Donoghue, "knowing the sound Catholic feeling of that gentleman," and persuaded that he is now sorry for challenging Sir Robert Peel. He does not attack Protestant duellists either, as, with their varying faith, they may be supposed also to vary in their notions of morality. Having made these explanations, the highest Prelate in the Irish Roman Catholic Church thus pronounces his anathema on duellists:—"Lastly, I speak of Catholic duellists as such; that is to say, I speak of them precisely in their character of duellists—in other words, I speak not immediately and directly of the person, but of the act. Having premised these observations, I now assert, without the least fear of being contradicted by any one who understands the doctrine and practice of the Catholic Church—1. That the Catholic duellist, as such, must be held in abhorrence by every one who loves our Divine Lord, by every one who hates mortal sin, and has a due horror of an act whereby the holy church of God has an exceeding great horror; 2. That the Catholic duellist, as such, proves himself to be in reality a coward, according to the true Christian meaning of the words 'cowardice' and 'heroism.'"

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE SHARMAN CRAWFORD.—It was originally intended that the monument to be raised to the memory of the "Father of Irish Tenant Right" should be the tribute of his own tenantry exclusively; but when the project was set on foot many personal friends and public admirers of the late Mr. Crawford expressed a desire to contribute to the erection of the monument. It was accordingly resolved by the committee to open the subscription lists, without solicitation, to all whose respect and regard for the private worth and high public character of Sharmar Crawford would dispose them to join his tenants in raising a monument to perpetuate his memory in future time; and John Cleland, Esq., of Crossgar, county Down, has consented to be the recipient of these contributions. The form and site of the monument have not been decided on; and it is stated by the committee that on these points the wishes of the Crawford family will be faithfully observed. It is probable that it may be a tower or obelisk erected at Crawfordsburn, the beautiful marine residence, on the shore of Belfast Lough, in which the venerable Sharmar Crawford drew his last breath.

SCOTLAND.

THE EARLDOM OF DUNDONALD.—It is asserted that there is to be a contest for the succession to the earldom of Dundonald, the competitors being two brothers. It had been whispered, long previously to the death of the late Earl, that his eldest son would have difficulty in making out his claim to the succession. The eldest son, at the very end of last Session, preferred his claim to be a Scotch Peer, and to be entitled to vote for the representative Scotch Peers. His claim will come on for hearing again shortly, and, it is said, will be opposed by his brother, the eldest son by the second marriage of the late Earl.

THE WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND.—It may be remembered that on the failure of this bank, some two or three years ago, the liquidators raised an action in the Scotch Court of Session against the directors, alleging that it was through culpable negligence and inattention on their part that the mismanagement for the loss sustained. A good deal of preliminary negotiation and litigation took place, and ultimately thirteen of the directors agreed to give the sum of £200,000 in discharge of all demands that might be made against them, and the action was finally cent nund against two of the directors, Messrs. George and William Baird, members of the great ironmaster firm at Gartsherrie. These gentlemen disputed their liability—first, on the ground that they could not be prosecuted while their brother directors were exempted; and next, that they, as

directors, were not liable for the fraud or misconduct of the manager. The case was heard before the Lord Justice Clerk (Ingalls), Lords Cowan, Benholme, and Neaves, who all concurred in repelling the pleas of the defendants, and gave judgment that there was good cause of action, or, in Scotch legal phrase, that it was relevant for the pursuers to aver that they had suffered loss and damage through the culpable negligence of the defendants in not fulfilling the duty they had undertaken of superintending the affairs of the bank, whereby great loss had ensued. The case will therefore go to trial on its merits, and evidence will be led to sustain the pleas of the pursuers.

DRUMMING OUT A DESERTER.—William Routledge, a private of the 93rd Regiment, underwent the ignominious ordeal of drumming out of his regiment last week at Aberdeen. Routledge, who had served fourteen years, deserted four times, and had been as often sentenced to be flogged, though that punishment was remitted on two occasions. He had, however, twice received fifty lashes. When he last deserted he took his kit, &c., with him, and some three weeks ago again gave himself up, after disposing of his furnishings. He was taken across the barrack square with the band playing "The Rogue's March" behind him, and the usual tokens of disgrace; and then, to avoid an assemblage of persons gathered in the narrow lane leading up to the Castlehill, was taken out at the back gate and conveyed to gaol, where he is to undergo six months' imprisonment as part of his punishment.

A RELIGIOUS THIEF.—A few days ago a man named Peter Forbes was tried before the Sheriff and a jury at Wick on eight charges of theft from different persons, and one charge of sheep-stealing, on all of which he was found guilty and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in Perth Penitentiary. He was one of the most prominent of the revivalists in Wick during the late excitement, and his conduct was always considered most exemplary until Christmas Eve last, when one of the county police caught him in the act of robbing a carrier's cart in the High-street, and, upon searching his house, the produce of upwards of ten different robberies was found stored therein, exclusive of the carcass of a sheep which had been stolen from a field near Wick a few days previously.

A SCOTCH COURTESHIP.—In the Renfrewshire Small Debt Court, last week, Eliza Brown, a red-cheeked, good-looking female, sued Mr. Matthew Scott, farmer, Graigsden-Denniston, Kilmacolm, for £7 10s. as board and wages up till Whit Sunday term, she having been dismissed from his service. The allegations on both sides made it appear that Eliza is engaged to be married at the expiry of the current term; that her betrothed, who is a carter in Glasgow, had been in the habit of coming occasionally to the farm on Saturday afternoons, and staying about the house till Sunday morning. Mr. Scott had offered no objections to the intended husband's visits, but disapproved of the length to which they were protracted, and ordered them in future to be shortened, or he would be obliged to part with Eliza. On the other hand, Eliza contended that a girl in her interesting position was entitled to a very large latitude. On Saturday, the last inst., the "wooer" made his appearance, and passed the afternoon in the kitchen with his charmer, and at nightfall was understood to have taken his departure. It turned out, however, that he had passed the night on the premises, for Mr. Scott, on going into the byre at five on Sunday morning, found the "wooer" rising up from a snug bed which had been improvised with his plaid among the straw; and Mr. Scott kept his word by parting with Eliza on Monday morning, and she thereupon brought the action. These facts being admitted, the Sheriff said there had evidently been great indiscretion on the part of the girl, though her position might to some extent palliate this; yet Mr. Scott was quite entitled to discharge her under such circumstances. But his Lordship suggested that perhaps Mr. Scott would agree to take her back (provided she were willing to go back) on her promising not to protract her interviews with her sweetheart to such unreasonable hours for the future. Mr. Scott having signified his willingness to accede to his Lordship's suggestion, Eliza was asked if she was willing to promise accordingly, and go back; but she first asked the important question—"How often am I to be allowed to see my laird?" Mr. Scott said he had no objection to allow her "laird" to visit her on any week night from half-past eight till half-past ten o'clock. This satisfied Eliza, and all parties left the court in the best possible humour.

THE PROVINCES.

A TRAIN AMONG THE HOUNDS.—The North Nottinghamshire hounds were pursuing a fox along the Great Northern Railway near East Marmham when a train rounded a curve. The driver immediately slackened his speed and the breaks were applied, but not soon enough to prevent an accident. Two valuable hounds were destroyed on the spot, and another died shortly afterwards by being precipitated down an embankment. Three or four others were seriously injured.

AN UNEXPECTED AND (!) INCONVENIENT RETURN.—Some thirteen years ago the husband of a schoolmistress at Dover went off to Australia, leaving her with three or four children. He was never heard of until the other day, when he arrived at Dover and made inquiries for his family. He had been successful, it would seem, in amassing considerable wealth in Australia, and he had returned, wishing to spend the remainder of his days with his family; but unluckily his wife, supposing herself a widow, had (after seeing her children well educated and provided for) married again some two years since.

INTERESTING GEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY AT HASTINGS.—A recent fall of the cliff near Hastings has brought to light an interesting slab of stone bearing on its surface the clear impression of a foot of a gigantic bird. It has three toes, each of which is about nine inches long in the tread, with a claw at the end, of perhaps two inches in length. The back of the foot where the three toes meet as in a centre does not appear; that part of the foot, it would seem, did not reach the ground. But still further back is the mark made by the point of the spur, or fourth toe. From the point of the middle claw to the mark of the spur it measures twenty-four inches, and in width twenty inches. The whole of the slab is covered with the lines of ripple made by the waves upon soft mud, and there are numerous other impressions, more or less perfect, of the same bird's claws on other slabs of stone. The bird which has left us this footprint may be supposed to have been at least twelve feet high, and perhaps much more. Mr. Jones, of the Geological Society, Somerset House, suggests that it may not be the footprint of a bird, but probably of the iguanodon; but he had not seen the original slab.

A FISH A WITNESS IN A COURT OF JUSTICE.—A singular incident occurred at the Stafford Assizes last week in the cause "Timmins v. the Birmingham and Staffordshire Gas Company," in which the plaintiff sued the gas company for damages caused by them in allowing the "tank gas water" from their gasometer to flow into the plaintiff's well. Dr. Letheby, the analytical chemist and Officer of Health of the city of London, being engaged as one of the scientific witnesses on the part of the gas company, sought to prove that gas water could not have entered the plaintiff's well because he found animalcules in the water. Mr. W. M. Williams and Mr. Bird, the chemical witnesses for the plaintiff, suspecting that the learned doctor would advance the theory that animal life cannot exist in water tainted with gas, determined to give it a flat contradiction by producing in court a live fish swimming in a mixture of half an ounce of the gas tank water with 25cc. of pure water, having about the smell and taste of the water in plaintiff's well. Accordingly, a fine healthy gudgeon was caught in the river at Stafford, put into a basin, the basin filled with the above mixture, and slipped under a seat in court, ready for the doctor, should he advance his theory, which, upon his examination, he soon did, asserting most positively that the least taint of gas in water would destroy animal life, when, to his evident surprise and amid a general roar of laughter, in which the learned Judge heartily joined, the basin with the fish swimming in it was lifted up and placed in the centre of the table full in view of both Judge and jury, and proving by his healthy movements that, though the water was not agreeable, piscine life was still possible in it. When the trial was over (which resulted in a verdict in favour of the plaintiff) the fish was taken back to the river and returned to his "native element," apparently none the worse for his short visit as a witness to Stafford Assizes. [Dr. Letheby has published a letter in the papers in which he impugns to some extent the accuracy of the above paragraph; but the fun of the affair remains unaffected.]

DECREASE OF LIVERPOOL SHIPPING.—The shipping inwards and outwards, from the 1st of January last to the 22nd inst., from foreign ports into Liverpool, shows a decrease of 432 ships, and in tonnage 285,738 tons. On the outwards, carrying away the manufactures of Lancashire for the principal part, the decrease during the same period is 207 ships, and 146,731 tons, a falling off in the trade which no one could have contemplated this time last year; besides, it is a great novelty in the port of Liverpool to find a falling off in its import and export business.

DARING BURGLARY.—On Monday morning the discovery was made that in the course of Sunday night some burglars had effected an entry into the shop of Mr. Walter, silversmith and pawnbroker, in Broad-street, Worcester, and had made a complete clearance of one of the shop windows, which contained watches, chains, plate, and jewellery to the estimated value of at least £500. The shop is in one of the main thoroughfares of the city, and the police would, in their nightly rounds, have to pass it repeatedly. Moreover, it is situated in the vicinity of the known haunts of thieves and bad characters, but the police do not appear to have discovered anything amiss in the course of the night (which was very wet); and until the shopman proceeded to open the shutters to resume business nothing appears to have been known of the robbery. It was then discovered that the premises had been entered by means of a ladder obtained from an adjoining yard, but the shutters had been attempted in several places. The booty consisted of between £10 and £50 in money, and a large quantity of gold and silver watches, chains, rings, and brooches.

ITALIAN VOLUNTEERS AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS.

THE Italian army, in its latter consolidation, is composed of the best men in Italy, since the inspiration given to the people by the struggle for liberty has sufficed to provide its ranks with volunteers who are determined to uphold the teachings of Garibaldi and to fight for a united Italy when the time shall come. Even in the smaller towns and villages the conscription has been met with the national enthusiasm which still associates the army with the name of the great leader; and the friends of the conscripts dried their tears when they thought of the glory which might yet be achieved by the Italian army in its country's cause. Our Engraving represents the departure of these volunteers from Gargnano, a village of the Brescian province on the western shore of Lake Garda, and about twenty-three miles from Brescia itself. Here, from a population of about 4000 souls, there were not wanting those who were willing to go forth to fight the battles of liberty and unity; and the quaint old streets resounded not only to the beating of the rataplan, but to the shouts of those who followed it. Less joyous were the feelings of the prisoners who, combining together for brigandage under the name of patriotism, and committing their ruffianly excesses for the sake of the Bourbon or the Pope, were compelled to cross the Neapolitan frontier, and, crossing the Roman boundary, were taken by the French troops and carried captives into the Eternal City, there to remain, if not for punishment, at least out of the way of doing any immediate harm, save that of deceiving others by pretending that they were martyrs to the cause of morality and religion.

LE DARIEN STEAM-FRIGATE
IN A STORM.

THE French vessels which left Cherbourg conveying troops and munitions of war to Mexico met with such severe weather that the consequences have been found to be somewhat disastrous, and might, indeed, have had the effect of delaying the expedition, since the Darien encountered such a terrible storm as tried all the resources of the officers in command. The Amazon, which quitted Cherbourg on the 3rd ult., conveyed the horses of the 9th Artillery, and accompanied the Darien, which had embarked the troops, as well as many horses belonging to the General in command, most of these animals being stowed, both on the larboard and starboard, in well-constructed stalls.

Every precaution had been taken to mitigate as much as possible the fatigues of the long voyage, and the journey commenced under the most favourable auspices. Soon, however, the bad weather set in, and the passage became

difficult and extremely trying to those of the troops who had not been accustomed to the sea. In one of the heavy squalls several of the horses, becoming alarmed at the violent pitching and rolling of the

nearly broke her down upon the dry dock, and almost as much difficulty was experienced in launching her as was found in floating the Great Eastern. Owing to a mistake in calculation, on being



DEPARTURE FROM GARGNANO OF CONSCRIPTS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ITALIAN ARMY.

vessel, added to the tumult and confusion on board, broke their halters, overturned their already-dilapidated boxes, and finished by rolling helplessly upon the deck. It was only by the utmost patience and address that the soldiers and sailors who were able to render any assistance eventually secured them, and contrived to reinstate them in the temporary stables, which were repaired as well as the circumstances would permit.

On board the Amazon, however, the consequences were still more grave; for, having from the beginning been compelled to suspend the horses by girths passed round their bodies in order to prevent their striking against the bulwarks, and from their having necessarily remained in this position for some days, the animals were most of them so injured that they died of inflammation of the intestines; so that the supply landed at Vera Cruz will be considerably less than was intended. Our Engraving represents the scene near the bridge atwart the Darien when the storm was at its height.

AMERICAN IRON-CLAD
SHIPS.

As the late naval engagement at Norfolk is peculiarly interesting in consequence of this being the first time that iron-coated ships have been in action, either with the old style of wooden vessels or iron ones on the new system, we give a few details concerning the Merrimac and Monitor, the two principal performers in the late engagement in the Chesapeake.

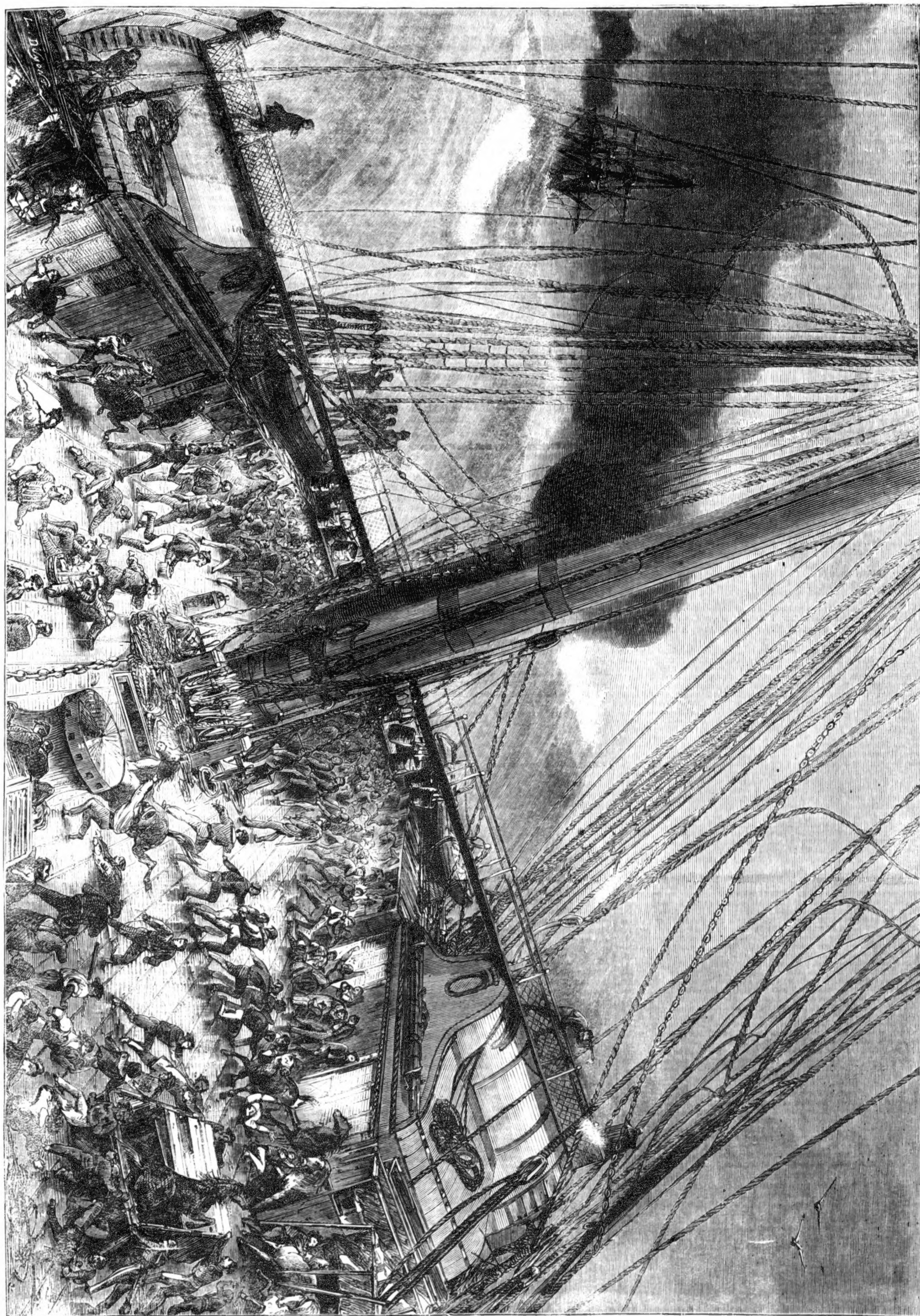
THE MERRIMAC.

This was the vessel which attracted so much attention a few years ago when she visited this country. Originally built as an ordinary 40-gun frigate, she has been completely altered since her capture by the Confederates.

The spar-deck of the Merrimac when built was 281ft. long and 52ft. broad, and she drew 23ft. of water. She rated about 4000 tons burden. Her frame was of live oak, filled in solid, and caulked 14ft. out from the keelson. Forward the ship had ten live oak breasthooks, fastened through and through with copper under the water and iron above; aft she had seven breasthooks. The engine was of 800-horse power, with a two-bladed propeller 14ft. in diameter. The Merrimac was launched in 1856, and was sunk at Norfolk on the breaking out of the secession war. Since then she has been raised, placed upon the dry dock, and covered with an entire slanting roof of railroad iron. This additional weight



FRENCH SOLDIERS CONDUCTING A PARTY OF CAPTURED BRIGANDS TO ROME.



THE FRENCH FRIGATE LE DAUPHIN, WITH TROOPS ON BOARD FOR MEXICO, ENCOUNTERING A STORM IN THE ATLANTIC.

launched she was found to sink four feet deeper than before, so as to take in water. So she was again taken out, being hogged in the operation and otherwise so strained that the Southern newspapers pronounced her a failure, and it was thought more than probable that she would never dare go to sea. She is probably a very good movable floating-battery. Above the water's edge she is said to present nothing but her roof of railroad iron, with a smoke-stack rising a few feet above it. She mounted ten 100-pound Armstrong guns, which are reported to have mashed through iron mail as thick as that of the Warrior and Black Prince, but which do not appear to have made any impression on the Monitor.

THE MONITOR.

The iron-clad floating battery Monitor was built in one hundred days, to designs by Captain Ericsson, and is described as follows:—Externally she presents to the fire of the enemy's guns a hull rising but about 18 in. above the water, and a sort of martello tower, 20 ft. in diameter and 10 ft. high. The smoke-stack during action is lowered into the hold, it being made with telescopic slides. The hull is sharp at both ends, the bow projecting and coming to a point at an angle of 80 deg. to the vertical line. It is flat-bottomed, 6½ ft. in depth, 12½ ft. long, 34 ft. wide at the top, and is built of light three-eighth-inch iron. Another or upper hull rests on this, with perpendicular sides and sharp ends, 5 ft. high, 40 ft. 4 in. wide, 17½ ft. long, extending over the sides of the lower hull 3 ft. 7 in. and over each end 25 ft., thus serving as a protection to the propeller, rudder, and anchor. The sides of the upper hull are composed of an inner guard of iron, a wall of white oak 30 in. thick, covered with iron armour 6 in. thick.

When in readiness for action the lower hull is totally immersed, and the upper one is sunk 3 ft. 6 in., leaving only 18 in. above water. The interior is open to the bottom, like a sloop; the deck, which is bombproof, coming flush with the top of the upper hull. No railing or bulwark of any kind appears above the deck, and the only things exposed are the turret or citadel, the wheelhouse, and the box crowning the smoke-stack. The inclination of the lower hull is such that a ball, to strike it in any part, must pass through at least 25 ft. of water, and then strike an inclined iron surface at an angle of about 10 deg. In the event of the enemy boarding the battery, they can do no harm, as the only entrance is at the top of the turret or citadel, which cannot easily be sealed, and even then only one man at a time can descend into the hull.

This turret is a revolving, bombproof fort, and mounts two 11-inch guns. It is protected by eight thicknesses of inch iron, overlapping, so that at no one spot is there more than one inch thickness of joint. A shellproof flat roof of perforated iron, placed on forged beams, intersected six inches down the cylinder, covers the top. The sliding hatch in this cover is perforated to give light and for musketry fire in case the battery is boarded. A spur-wheel, 6½ in. in diameter, moved by a double-cylinder engine, turns the turret, guns and all, and a rod connected with the running gear of the engine enabling the gunner to control the aim. The guns move in forged iron slides across the turret, the carriages being made to fit them accurately.

These guns were furnished with 400 wrought-iron shot by the Novelty Works, each ball weighing 184 lb. and costing 47 dols. The balls were made by forging square blocks of iron, which were afterwards turned in the lathe. Cast-iron shot would break against such a vessel as the Merrimac.

THE FIGHT.

A correspondent who witnessed the conflict between the Merrimac and the Monitor furnishes the following account to a New York paper, the narrative beginning where the vessels first met each other:—

At first the rebel craft seemed nonplussed, and hesitated, no doubt in wonderment at the queer-looking machine approaching her. The Merrimac then closed the distance between her and the Monitor until they were within a mile of each other. Both batteries stopped. The Merrimac fired a shot at the Minnesota, to which no reply was made. The rebel craft then fired at the Monitor; the latter replied, hitting the Merrimac near the water-line. The Merrimac then commenced firing very rapidly, first from her stern-gun at the Monitor, and then her broadside guns occasionally firing a shot at the Minnesota. The fight went on in this way for an hour or two, both vessels exchanging shot pretty freely. Sometimes the Merrimac would retire, followed by the Ericsson, and vice versa. While the fight between the batteries was going on, 100 solid 9-inch shot were sent up from Fortress Monroe on the steamer Ramoocas to the Minnesota. At a quarter-past ten o'clock the Merrimac and Monitor had come into pretty close quarters, the former giving the latter two broadsides in succession. There were promptly replied to by the Monitor. The firing was so rapid that both craft were obscured in volumes of white smoke for a moment or more. The rampart of the fort, the rigging of the vessels in port, the houses and the bend, were all covered with sailors, soldiers, and civilians. When the rapid firing alluded to took place these spectators were singularly silent, as if doubtful as to the result. Their impatience was soon removed by the full figure of the Monitor, with the Stars and Stripes flying at her stern, steaming around the Merrimac, moving with the ease of a duck on the water. The distance between the vessels was 40 ft. In this circuit the Monitor's guns were not idle, as she fired shot after shot into her antagonist, two of which, it is alleged, penetrated the Merrimac's sides.

At eleven a.m. the Minnesota opened fire, and assisted the Monitor in engaging the Merrimac. She fired 9-inch solid shot with good accuracy, but with apparently little effect. The Merrimac returned the fire, firing shell, one of which struck and exploded the boiler of the gun-boat Dragon, which was alongside the Minnesota, endeavouring to get her off. By this unfortunate affair Joseph McDonald, sailor, was seriously scalded. For the next hour the battle raged fiercely between the Merrimac on the rebel side and the Union vessels, the Monitor, Minnesota, and Whitehall, but with no particular result. The Minnesota being the best mark for the Merrimac, the latter fired at her frequently, alternately giving the Monitor a shot. The Merrimac made several attempts to run at full speed past the Monitor to attack and run down the Minnesota. All these attempts were parried, as it were, by the Monitor. In one of these attempts by the Merrimac she ran her plough or ram with full force against the side of the Monitor, but it only had the effect of careening the latter vessel in the slightest degree. The rebel boats Yorktown and Patrick Henry kept a safe distance from the Monitor. The former vessel, at the beginning of the fight, had the temerity to come within respectable range of the Monitor. The latter fired one shot at her, entering her pilot-house, carrying it away, and no doubt killing a number of rebels. She retired out of range.

The fight raged hotly on both sides, the opposing batteries moving round each other with the skill, ease, and dexterity of expert pugilists. The Merrimac, though the strongest, did not move with the dexterity of her antagonist; hence the Monitor had the advantage of choice of position. At a quarter before twelve o'clock, noon, Lieutenant Hepburn, the signal officer on the ramparts at Fortress Monroe, reported to General Wool that the Monitor had pierced the sides of the Merrimac, and in a few minutes the latter was in full retreat, heading for Sewell's Point, and chased for a few minutes by the Monitor. The Merrimac has evidently suffered to some extent, and it was thought at one time that she was sinking. After she got safely under the guns of the rebel battery at Sewell's Point she stopped and awaited for help from her consorts, who were beating a retreat. Subsequently two tug-boats or gun-boats went alongside and took her in tow, and proceeded to Norfolk. This ended the engagement.

POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION IN A BERLIN THEATRE.—A sort of political demonstration took place at Berlin, a few nights ago, at the Victoria Theatre, upon the first performance of a new piece called the "Four Dames." In the second act one of the actors had to sing some verses in which a contrast was made between a rich man, who was at the same time a moral and intellectual pauper, and a poor man, who might be called rich in the higher gifts of character. On coming to the last stanza, the singer hit off the House of Peers, with its comfortably-placed members and wealthy landed proprietors, in the one pithy sentence, "Thou poor rich house;" while, by the simple transposition of the epithets, "Thou rich poor house," he culled the deputies who had been sent to their homes without just cause, but who went attended with the sympathies of the whole nation. Immediately the audience rose and greeted the sentiment with thundering rounds of applause, which lasted for several minutes. During the subsequent part of the performance the popular enthusiasm was excited to the highest pitch by the slightest allusion to the topic of the day.

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES IN PASSION WEEK.—On Monday afternoon the managers of all the metropolitan theatres had an interview, by appointment, with the Lord Chamberlain at his office in St. James's, with reference to the subject of permitting dramatic performances during Passion Week. The representatives of the public press were not admitted, but it was understood that the whole question was fully and amicably discussed, without, however, any definite result being arrived at.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 179.

LORD HENRY LENNOX.

Lord Henry George Charles Gordon Lennox is forty-one years old, and came into Parliament sixteen years ago. During the greater part of this period of sixteen years Lord Henry was a silent member, and was thought to be as incapable of making a long speech as he is of walking the tightrope across the transept of the Crystal Palace; indeed, speechmaking was deemed to be quite out of his way. He does not look like a speechmaker. One would rather suppose him to be a pleasure-seeker, a lounge at clubs, an elegant ornament of the saloon and ballroom, a gallant esquire of dames at the Opera, a clever writer of dainty couplets in a perfumed album, and perhaps a dilettante in the world of art; in short, anything but a hard worker, which a man must be if he hopes to gain and keep the ear of the House of Commons. In person Lord Henry looks all that the public thought he was. He is very slightly built. He dresses in elegant fashion. His face is not unintelligent, but is rather effeminate, though he wears a thick moustache; he wears his hair parted in the middle, and he glides about rather than walks. People, however, who knew Lord Henry intimately always averred that there was good stuff in him, and that he had never done himself justice; and so it seems, for that speech of his on the British Museum, &c., was not merely a long speech but a good one. There were in it evidently the results of great labour. The facts which his Lordship had collected were cleverly handled; a tinge of pleasant, quiet humour lighted up the speech from beginning to end; and it was delivered in an easy flow of good language and with modest but effective action. His Lordship was rather too much in a hurry, but that is a common mistake, which practice will correct. There was a full House to hear Lord Henry speak, and he at once gained its ear, and kept it from beginning to end. And he achieved more; for he was applauded by cheers, and was greatly praised by succeeding speakers. Gladstone called his oration "on the whole a useful speech;" Disraeli said that the noble Lord had made "a masterly statement." Now, to be praised by men who themselves deserve praise is a great thing to have achieved, and to such success Lord Henry certainly attained. And when he had finished his harangue, and passed out of the House, he was congratulated by all his friends upon his achievement; and no doubt went home in a flutter of excitement, as well he might.

FALLACIES IN HIS SPEECH.

There were, however, not a few faults in this notable speech. The facts were apparently correct, and great credit is due to his Lordship for his diligence in collecting them, the art which he displayed in their arrangement, and the readiness with which he referred to them; but we venture to think that his reasoning was narrow. He failed to grasp the whole of the effects of the institutions which he criticised. For example, he told the House that visitors to the British Museum cost 2s. 2d. per head; to the Kensington Museum, 1s. 3½d.; and to the National Portrait Gallery from 16s. to 18s.; and he inferred, and the House, by its cheers, seemed to ratify the inference, that it was a great cost for a very small benefit. But is the benefit limited to the actual visitors? Do not the visitors benefit those who cannot visit? Literary men go to the British Museum to collect facts, and otherwise to prepare themselves to write their books; and artists go to the Kensington Museum to study pictures, &c., that they themselves may be inspired to produce works of art for the instruction and gratification of the world; and we venture to say that not merely the gratification and instruction of the visitors, but all that men are enabled to do for the benefit of their fellows by the help of these institutions, ought to be set against the expenses which Lord Henry Lennox quoted. Mr. Panizzi says that Lord Henry's calculation of the cost of each visitor to the British Museum was wrong; that he altogether left out the "readers" at the Museum from his computation; but whether this were so or not is, to our mind, of little consequence. If his Lordship's facts were correct, his reasoning was wrong. Before we leave Lord Henry we may note that in 1852 he was a Lord of the Treasury under Lord Derby; and again in 1858-9, when he also acted as Mr. Disraeli's private secretary. His Lordship, however, is not a bigoted politician. He describes himself as "a Liberal Conservative;" and he has not unfrequently broken away from his party and given an independent vote. On neither of the two questions in the Session of 1861 which involved the fate of the Ministry did his Lordship's name appear in the Division List. Perhaps he inherits in some degree the political views of his father, the late Duke of Richmond, who, though in his later years claimed by the Conservatives, was a promoter of the Reform movement in 1830-1.

LONG-WINDED SPEECHES.

Mr. Ayrton is deficient in worldly wisdom and wanting in tact, or he would never at any time spin out a speech to two hours' length, and certainly not on Wednesday morning. To say all that can be said is, as a rule, at all times and in all places, a fatal mistake. The true wisdom is, everywhere, but especially in the House of Commons, and most especially at a morning sitting, to say not a word more than is necessary. We hold, therefore, that Mr. Ayrton's speech when he introduced his Compensation for Accidents Bill was an absurdity. A speech of two hours long in the House of Commons, except on special occasions, is a mistake, and such a speech at a morning sitting simply folly; for very few will stop to listen to it throughout. We do not believe a dozen members heard all of that speech of Mr. Ayrton. Some heard the beginning, some took away a piece out of the middle, some were contented with a short length from the end, and a few—but very few—sat out the whole. What, then, can be the use of speaking when men will not listen? No doubt the speech was able enough; and if we could have sat it out we might have been interested in tracing the thin current of argument as it meandered through the widespread verbiage, and perhaps been even enlightened and improved by the facts and the expositions of the law. But life is short, Mr. Ayrton, and every year the struggle of life is becoming fiercer and time more precious. And listening every day to two-hours speeches is a sheer impossibility. In the great Manchester warehouses they compress goods by hydraulic pressure that they may take up less room. Oh that we had a process of the same sort to compress speeches, or that they could, before delivery, be passed through some sieve or alembic! How much precious time would be saved, and how much force (mark this, you windy speakers!) gained to the speeches by the process! Indeed, on this head we have long since come to the conclusion that, as a rule (admitting exceptions, of course), the power and effect of a speech, *ceteris paribus*, is, in the House of Commons, in proportion to the closeness with which its arguments and statements are packed. Mr. Ayrton, and the like of him, should imitate the mechanic—simplify their machinery, and thus increase their power. It is verily a pity that Mr. Ayrton should mar his efforts by this inordinate expansion of his matter, for he is an able man, and one of the most useful members of the House. He is an accomplished lawyer, an acute critic, sharp as a razor, and subtle as a metaphysician, and withal very independent.

A RADICAL MEMBER.

Mr. White of Brighton is the giant of the House. In height he is several inches over six feet; whilst in bulk he is Titanic. When he sits, he is the observed of all observers. When he moves across the lobby of the House all small men in his neighbourhood suffer eclipse. His place is below the gangway, on the Speaker's right. The member for Brighton, like his colleague, Mr. Coningham, is in politics a Radical, advocates the ballot, rating suffrage, withdrawal of all grants for religious purposes, reduction of expenditure, &c. But though he holds Radical views, and is impulsively honest and zealous, he is not factious, but, on the contrary, is courteous, candid, and generous to his opponents, and never opposes his will doggedly to the will of the House. On fitting occasions—

but never on unfitting—he boldly utters his opinions, moves his amendment, takes a division, and bows good-humouredly to the result. Usually Mr. White's speeches are short—just, pointed, impulsive utterances; but on a late occasion he spoke for three quarters of an hour, and he was listened to with profound attention; and no wonder, for the subject was China, the Taepings there, and the position of the British merchants in relation to these notable rebels, and there is not in the House another man who knows so much of China, its inhabitants, politics, and religion as Mr. White; for his knowledge has not been gained so much from books as from actual observation, he having lived in China many years, and traded with the Chinese many more. Mr. White, therefore, on this topic was an authority. He spoke of what he had seen and heard upon the spot, and consequently there was vitality in his speech, a vivid reality in his descriptions, which at once attracted and held the attention of the House. It is still the cherished opinion on the Conservative side of the House that your Radical is a low, ignorant fellow, and altogether uncultured; but this, we need hardly say, is a picture drawn by an enemy, and not true. As a rule, Radicals are not scholars, though there are men amongst them whose scholarship would stand the test of the severest examination—John Stuart Mill, for example; Mr. Grote; Mr. Hare, the author of that remarkable Reform scheme noticed in these columns a year ago; Mr. Fawcett, the blind man who put up for Southwark, &c. But though, as a rule, Radicals are not profound scholars, they are not uncultured or unread. Indeed, on all modern subjects, we should say they are far better informed than their Conservative opponents, and are far away, as a rule, the better read men. And to this Mr. White is no exception. We do not find in "Dod" that he ever went to college, but that he is well educated we know, and that he has read extensively is patent to all who know him; indeed, we have learned that occasionally he startles his political associates by indications that he has travelled in regions of literature into which comparatively few of our bustling politicians have penetrated; just as Bright, who, as a Quaker, is supposed by many to read no literature but religious works, now and then astonishes the House by an apt quotation from Tennyson's poems or Disraeli's novels.

BREAKING IN A COLT.

In the old coaching days it was common to place a young, fiery horse by the side of an old trained roadster, and the effect upon the young one was soon seen. "Bill," said we once to a hostler waiting to pull off the cloths, "your young horse runs quietly enough now." "Yes," Bill replied, with a knowing wink, "we put him at wheel alongside the old bay mare, and, lor bless yer, he only went two or three journeys afore he was as quiet as a lamb." Apropos of this, we have seen the same plan adopted in the House. The hot, and fiery, and restless Sir Robert has been harnessed with the notable quiet old roadster Cardwell, and the result is astonishing. On Thursday last week Sir Robert brought forward his Markets and Fairs (Ireland) Bill, and we expected some pretty Irish rows—widespread conflagration ending in the destruction of the bill, and possibly a challenge or two; but, instead of this, we had a most harmonious evening. Sir Robert, by the side of his companion, was as moderate and subdued as could be wished. The bill went through Committee as quietly as if it had been a Scotch measure, and really it was a most agreeable night, and everything was pleasant to all parties. On Monday night there was more of excitement when the Poor Law Amendment Bill came on; but the excitement was all on the Opposition side. Sir Robert was still calm and self-restrained, and, aided and kept in order by his judicious mentor, went through his work as if he had been to the official manner born. So much for science judiciously applied; and it was remarked that many of the Irish Conservatives gave their support: these were for the most part the Irish landed gentlemen who have of late years come to learn that chronic agitation is not compatible with Irish prosperity.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords sat for a short time, when the following bills were read a third time and passed:—Writs of Habeas Corpus into her Majesty's Possessions Abroad Bill, Officers' Commissions Bill, and Consolidated Fund (£18,000,000) Bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

COLONIAL FORTIFICATIONS.

On the order of the day for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. BAXTER called the attention of the House to the subject of colonial fortifications, and moved the following resolution:—"That, in the opinion of this House, the multiplication of fortified places in distant possessions involves a useless expenditure, and that the cost of erecting and maintaining fortifications at places not being great naval stations, in self-governed colonies, is not a proper charge on the Imperial Treasury." The hon. member said that £140,000 was asked for in the present estimates for these fortifications, and that it appeared impossible to calculate the amount which they might ultimately reach.

Mr. CHILDERS seconded the motion, and, taking a colonial point of view, urged the House to accept the resolution.

Mr. CAVE thought that, looking to the present position of Europe, it would be imprudent to weaken our colonial defences or abandon our naval stations.

Captain JERVIS considered that the military defence of the colonies ought to be left in the hands of the Government for the time being.

Sir G. C. LEWIS observed that it would be impossible to lay down any inflexible rule on the subject, but that Parliament had a check against unnecessary expenditure by examining the estimates every year. The right hon. Baronet assured the House that the Government did not intend to construct any more fortified places in the colonies.

Mr. ADDERLEY supported the motion, and thanked Mr. Baxter for having brought it forward. He was opposed to fortifying such possessions as St. Helena, while he was in favour of throwing upon the colonies the defence of such places as Quebec.

Lord H. VANE recommended Mr. Baxter to rest satisfied with the assurance of the Government, and withdraw his motion.

After a few words from Mr. Halliburton, Mr. A. MILLS, after the declaration of the Secretary for War, that no more large works of fortification would be carried out in her Majesty's colonial possessions, agreed in hoping that the motion would not be pressed to a division.

The motion was ultimately withdrawn.

PAY OF THE RESERVED CAPTAINS OF THE NAVY.

Sir J. HAY asked the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it was the intention of the Board of Admiralty to continue to withhold from the Captains on the reserved list the pay to which they are entitled under the order in council of 1851; and moved that an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying her to take into consideration the case of the reserved Captains of her Majesty's Navy.

Admiral WALCOTT seconded the motion.

Lord G. PAGET denied that these gentlemen had sustained any wrong, although many of them no doubt conscientiously believed they had. He regretted that the order in question was ambiguously worded, but neither by the terms of their commissions nor the conditions upon which they had received their appointments had they any real claim to occupy the same position as officers in active service. It would be unfair and unjust to the Navy generally to allow them to do so, and would produce discontent and dissatisfaction. He believed, indeed, that their position was better than that of their brethren in active service.

A short discussion ensued, and on a division the motion was negatived by 72 to 66.

ORDNANCE ACCOUNTS.

Mr. WHITESIDE called attention to the facts proved on the recent trial in Dublin of a clerk in the Ordnance Department and a contractor with the Government, and invited Ministers to explain in what manner the Ordnance accounts are kept and audited, so as to allow of such frauds being committed.

Sir G. C. LEWIS gave details of the frauds in question, and observed that it was quite impossible to provide against the designs of rogues who conspired and forged for the purpose of plundering the public. The frauds committed by the clerk and contractor in the present instance very much exceeded those proved at the trial.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

Mr. A. SMITH brought under notice the manner of preparing the Civil Service Estimates, and expressed an opinion that all the civil service estimates, except that for the civil contingencies, ought to be laid on the table of the House within one month after the meeting of Parliament, and the estimate for civil contingencies within a month after the close of the financial year, the 31st day of March.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that, unlike the Army and Navy Estimates, the Miscellaneous Estimates were not prepared wholly within the departments, but depended on the co-operation of a number of outlying persons; but he agreed that efforts should be made and were making to bring the Miscellaneous Estimates forward at as early a period of each Session as possible. Admitting the principle involved in the motion, he hoped that no fixed rule would be laid down, for such a rule would tend to render the Miscellaneous Estimates imperfect at the time of their production.

NEW BILLS.

Mr. M. GIBSON obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Act (1854), the Merchant Shipping Act Amendment Act (1855), and the Customs Consolidation Act (1853), its object being to give effect to some of the recommendations of the Merchant Shipping Committee, and to remedy ascertained defects in the present Act.

Sir W. DENHAM obtained leave to bring in a bill to regulate the police of towns and populous places in Scotland, and for paving, lighting, cleaning, and improving the same.

MONDAY, MARCH 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

LUNACY REGULATION BILL.

In Committee on this bill, Lord CHILMSFORD proposed the omission of the clause providing that upon commissions of lunacy no evidence should be receivable as to the acts of the alleged lunatic or his state of mind anterior to the two years preceding the date of the commission. The noble and learned Lord contended that the limitation of two years was calculated to create embarrassment, and operate to exclude important testimony.

Lord CRANWORTH supported the amendment, and spoke in favour of leaving the discretion of the Commissioner in Lunacy untrammelled.

The LORD CHANCELLOR argued that the clause was necessary to bring the law to the standard of reason and common sense. In his opinion the evil of the existing law was that it permitted indiscriminate and unlimited inquiries as to the mental powers and moral propensities, and the clause had been framed with a view to remedy this defect.

The EARL of SHAFTESBURY said that it was both absurd and cruel upon the simple issue of sanity or insanity to carry back the inquiry for a longer period than two years.

Lord CRANWORTH condemned the clause as the first legislative attempt to exclude evidence upon a judicial investigation which might be most material to a right decision of the issue.

Their Lordships then divided, when the amendment was negatived by 8 to 26.

The remaining clauses led to some discussion; but the bill ultimately passed through Committee without any further division.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CAPTURE OF THE LABUAN.

Mr. LAYARD, in reply to a question put by Mr. Gregory, stated that the attention of the Government had been called to the capture, in Mexican waters, of the British vessel *Labuan*, laden with cotton, by a cruiser of the Federal States, and that Lord Lyons had made a representation to Mr. Seward upon the subject. He was unable to say what course the Washington Government might think proper to adopt; but her Majesty's Ministers had deemed it right to order a ship of war to proceed to Matamoros for the protection of British interests.

POOR RELIEF IN IRELAND.

On the order of the day for going into Committee upon the Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill.

Mr. O'CONNOR called attention to the case of Roman Catholic chaplains of workhouses whom the Poor-law Commissioners might find it desirable to remove, and suggested whether it might not be advisable to communicate in the first instance with the Catholic Bishop of the diocese, leaving, however, the *ultima ratio* in the hands of the commissioners.

Mr. NEWINGTON protested against the principle for which Mr. Gregory contended, and expressed his hope that no person in the service of the Crown would be subjected to a foreign authority imported into Ireland by the hands of the Pope.

Mr. O'CONNOR raised some objections to the constitution of the Irish Poor-law Commission, the chief of which was that the three commissioners were Protestants, while only one was an Irishman. This, he contended, was neither more nor less than the revival of Protestant ascendancy; and, however well the law might be administered under such a commission, he held that it was impossible to make it popular.

Sir R. PEEL defended the constitution of the board, and said that the present commissioners were appointed, not because they were Protestants or Englishmen, but because they were known to be the best men for the appointments to which they were nominated.

Some discussion ensued, in which Sir F. Heygate, The O'Connor Don, Mr. Bamish, Mr. Maguire, and other members took part, after which the House went into Committee, when clause 1 was postponed, and clauses 2 to 8 inclusive were agreed to, and the House resumed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The College of Physicians (Ireland Bill) was read a second time. The House then went into Committee on the Pier and Harbour Act Amendment Bill. On clause 27, which authorises the Board of Trade to issue provisional orders respecting any pier or harbour, notwithstanding any local Act affecting the same, Mr. E. ELLICE, jun., moved the omission of the clause, which was defended, on the part of the Government, by Mr. Gibson. On a division the amendment was carried by 71 to 35, the clause was struck out, and the remaining clauses were agreed to.

The Industrial Schools Acts (1861) Amendment Bill also passed through Committee, Sir George Grey, on the part of the Government, agreeing to extend the operation of the Act to the year 1867.

In Committee on the Mutiny Bill, Mr. WHITE moved to omit clause 22, which gives courts-martial the power of inflicting corporal punishment. The hon. member gave a pledge to make a similar motion every year so long as he remained a member of the House. Mr. PEASE supported the motion, which, however, on a division, was rejected by 67 to 14. The bill then passed through Committee.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Sir John Soane's Museum Bill was read a second time.

STATE OF POLAND.

In reply to the Earl of Carnarvon, Earl RUSSELL said that this country had always shown much sympathy with Poland, although no Government had thought it came within the scope of its duty to propose to afford material and active assistance to the people of Poland in their efforts to recover their independence. Nevertheless, remonstrances had often been made by the British Government to Russia; and at length concessions, such as those contained in the circular of Prince Gortschakoff, were made. But these had unfortunately been interrupted by the disturbances which had taken place in Warsaw. He, however, could not but hope that, looking to the liberal tendencies shown by the Russian Emperor in the government of the other parts of his dominions, similar liberality would be extended to the administration of the Polish provinces.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH BELGIUM.

In reply to a question from Mr. W. L. Forster, Mr. LAYARD announced that, owing to the demands put forward by the Belgian Government as the conditions for completing a treaty of commerce between the two countries, all negotiation in relation thereto had been suspended.

THE EDUCATION CODE.

Mr. WALPOLE, in introducing the series of resolutions of which he had given notice on the best mode of distributing the Parliamentary grants for educational purposes now administered by the Privy Council, observed that the main objects of the revised code were to test results and to simplify the machinery intrusted to the Committee of Council for the purpose of administering educational grants. He was not prepared, before the Speaker quitted the chair, to make any proposal which would have the effect of upsetting the revised code; but he was prepared to say that that code would require very considerable modifications and amendments before it would be palatable to Parliament or the country. The first principle of the system was to stimulate the private exertions of benevolent individuals by means of public aid in order to extend education as far as they could; and, next, that unless education was placed on a religious basis it would never answer the purposes for which it was intended. By steadily adhering to these principles from the beginning the system had prospered to the present moment. The amount of education had gone on increasing, but doubt had been entertained with regard to the quality. Of late years training-colleges, pupil-teachers, and capitation grants had been introduced, which had increased the expenditure, but had also improved the quality of the education. It would have thought that the first object of the Committee of Council would have been to maintain the admitted advantages of the system. Instead of doing this, however, they had put every one of them in peril. Having analysed the alleged defects of the scheme, the

right hon. gentleman proceeded to state that he was opposed to the single examination test as most fallacious and unsatisfactory, and in the last degree unjust to the children, the teachers, and the managers. Why, he asked, could they not remedy the defects of the system without destroying all the advantages of it? He warned the House now, in its attempt to economise, it struck at what was an admitted success—namely, the pupil-teachers. The right hon. gentleman concluded by moving that the Speaker leave the chair and the House do resolve itself into a committee of the whole House to consider the provisions of the Revised Code on Education.

Sir G. GREY (in the absence of Lord Palmerston) characterised Mr. Walpole's resolutions as negative and intangible, and in their nature as ill-adapted for discussion in Committee. Without entering into details, which he reserved for committee, he pointed out that the revised code was the result of the recommendations of the Education Commission, and was intended to establish the principle of making public grants dependent on educational results, a principle which Mr. Walpole did not controvert, and the code was prepared and published with the full expectation that it would be canvassed by the country and discussed by Parliament. He argued in opposition to the assertion that the code was calculated to discourage voluntary efforts, maintained that the present system rather tended to diminish the vigour of voluntary subscriptions, and, generally, that nothing that was proposed by Mr. Walpole would operate to decrease the number, extent, or efficiency of schools.

Mr. B. STANHOPE examined the working of the present system, which he thought ought not to be hastily done away with.

Mr. DUTTON supported the revised code, as he believed it would give a great and invigorating impetus to the education of the poor.

Lord R. CREW contended that, although there were evils in the existing system, the proposed scheme would not remedy them, while it would entail evils ten times more extensive and perilous. The system now in operation did not reach poor districts, new schools, and dull pupils; and in all these particulars the revised code would be worse than its predecessor.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER expressed his regret that he was unable to support the revised code. He admitted that reform of the present system was necessary, but his own experience convinced him that the great and sweeping change contemplated would not be so much a reform as the utter destruction of the existing machinery.

Mr. PULLEN opposed, and Mr. LEATHAM supported, the revised code.

On the motion of Mr. WHITESIDE, the debate was adjourned until Thursday.

WEST HARTLEPOOL RAILWAY AND DOCK COMPANY.

Mr. ROEBUCK moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the truth of the allegations contained in the petition of Benjamin Coleman, charging fraud on the part of the directors of the West Hartlepool Railway and Dock Company.

The motion was opposed and negatived.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CHANCERY REGULATION BILL.

After a preliminary discussion, the House went into Committee on the Chancery Regulation Bill, the point which was argued being whether a discretion should be retained in the Judges of the Court of Chancery to send matters arising in equity cases to be tried at law, on which the Solicitor-General insisted, and which was at length agreed to, and the bill passed through Committee.

The Turnpike Tolls Exemption (Scotland) Bill was lost by 86 to 61.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Register of Voters Bill passed through Committee.

The Smoke Nuisance (Metropolis) Acts Amendment Bill was read a second time.

The Whipping Bill passed through Committee.

The Law of Property Amendment Bill was read a second time.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

INDIAN LICENCE TAX.

In reply to the Earl of Airlie, the Duke of ARGYLL said no official information had arrived from India as to the course taken by the Indian Government with respect to the abolition of the licence tax. The licence tax had never been, as far as he could discover, collected throughout India, although it had been paid in certain parts of that country. It would, however, be more likely that the collection of the tax had been deferred, rather than altogether abolished. He believed it was the intention of the Indian Government to modify certain customs duties and to abstain from collecting others, and it must be satisfactory to every one that the finances of India were in such a hopeful condition.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IRON-CLAD GUN-BOATS.

Sir F. SMITH gave notice that on going into Committee of Supply on Friday, the 28th inst., he would call the attention of the Secretary of State for War to the reports of an engagement between the iron-clad frigate *Merrimack*, in the naval service of the Confederate States of America, and an iron gun-boat with a shotproof roof, called the *Monitor*, in the naval service of the Federal States; and to ask whether, from the results of that action, it will not be prudent to suspend the operations for constructing some of the forts at Spithead until the value of such gun-boats for the defence of our ports and roadsteads shall have been fully considered.

SOUTH ITALY.—Sir G. BOWYER asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government had received any information with regard to a certain proclamation of a Major Hamel that had been issued in South Italy of a most oppressive character to the country people.

Mr. LAYARD said the Government were not responsible for proclamations published in Italy. As regarded the one referred to, one of our Consuls had heard of it, and sent to Jolico, the place where it was dated from, to ascertain if it were true; and the result was, that it appeared a Major Hamel had draughted some such proclamation, but that it had never been even printed, and how the hon. member could have become possessed of it he could not tell.

THE REVISED CODE ON EDUCATION.

Mr. WHITESIDE resumed the adjourned debate on the subject of referring to the mode of education carried on in Scotland. Lord MACAULAY had stated that Scotland's greatness was attributable to her national education; but, in spite of that, the Privy Council attempted to force on them a new system. Scotland, however, resisted, and resisted successfully, any interference with their system of instruction. The revised code was impracticable. The President of the Council wanted quantity and not quality in education, and they would do nothing for schools until they were in such a position that they did not want their aid, and then they interfered only to the injury of the schools. At considerable length he canvassed the evidence given before a Royal Commission, and complained of that evidence having been misquoted by Mr. Lowe. He strongly deprecated the mode in which the Privy Council were proposing to interfere with the question of education. He denied that the schoolmasters were overpaid, and highly approved of the course they had adopted in order to set themselves right in public opinion. The Government were quite right in exercising economy; but when they considered the cost of a single iron-clad ship, which was built for the destruction of life, and the superior advantages to be derived from education, he thought the grant was a mere trifle for a country like England.

Mr. B. O'BORNE regretted that a party element had been infused into the debate. He denied that the education of Scotland was of that high order Mr. Whiteside had described it, though that had nothing to do with the question. He was not surprised at the outcry raised against his right hon. friend, for as soon as the Government grants were attempted to be withdrawn there was a most unanimous feeling against it among persons of all creeds, who were but too apt to look to Government aid for support. The great mistake that was made was in making grants to pupil-teachers. If they were to carry out the plans proposed by these out of doors they could not support the system for less than £5,000,000, and even the most sanguine advocates of it admitted that it would cost £2,500,000 a year. The money had been extravagantly lavished, and unless the House stepped in the system would become one of unlimited liability. He called attention to the report of the minority of the Royal Commission, in which they recommended the gradual withdrawal of the Government grants, so as to stimulate the voluntary effort, and strongly urged its consideration on the House; but, above all, he called on them to step forward and say that such lavish expenditure should not continue.

Mr. APPERLEY thought that the extent to which Government aid had overlaid the voluntary system was injurious, and that Parliament should endeavour to limit its own interference and revive voluntary management. Where the latter system had broken down and the clergy were left entirely without means the Government should recognise that fact, and take the management of education under their own control. He did not think that the two systems could work harmoniously together upon a consistent basis, and he was of opinion that in cases where, from poverty and destitution or other causes, the State was compelled to aid the cause of education, it should, to the extent of the grant, have the entire management and control.

Mr. GOWER supported the Government plan.

Mr. LINDELL condemned the principles of the revised code.

Mr. BAINES characterised the present system as a most unjust and demoralising one, inasmuch as it caused the public money to be distributed to the support of schools that were well endowed and able to maintain themselves, and withheld it from such as were poor and which most required extraneous aid.

The debate was continued up to the time of the adjournment of the House.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

BRISTOL.—Mr. Cross, the member for Bristol, has announced his determination to retire from Parliament. The hon. gentleman at the commencement of the Session determined to wait for a dissolution before he resigned his seat, but, as he now states, he sees no immediate prospect of a Parliamentary break-up, and he has therefore determined to resign. As a successor on the Conservative side, Sir G. T. Hesketh comes forward, the Liberals being represented by Mr. Mally, of Liverpool. The battle is expected to be a severe one.

KILGARR.—It is announced that Sir John Arnott contemplates retiring from the representation of Kilmory, and that Mr. O'Hagan, the Attorney-General for Ireland, who has not, nor ever had, a seat in the House of Commons, is likely to start for the borough.

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.—The High Sheriff of Yorkshire made the official declaration of the poll on Saturday. The following is the return of votes: Mr. Morrill, 5507; Mr. Milbank, 5041; majority for Mr. Morrill, 466. Mr. Morrill took his seat in the House on Tuesday, as did also Mr. J. R. Mills for High Wycombe.

MALLOW.—A Cork paper states that the name of Sergeant Sullivan is spoken of in connection with the next election for this borough. It adds that, "from the popularity of the learned gentleman and the just pride his fellow-townsmen feel in his career, there is every reason for attaching importance to this announcement."

OBITUARY.

COUNT NESSLERODE.—Count Nesselrode, ex-Chancellor of Russia, and one of the few survivors among the men who took part in the great French revolutionary wars, died at St. Petersburg on Sunday last. He was born about the year 1770, and was consequently upwards of ninety years old. His father, who was of a German family, was Ambassador in the service of the Empress Catherine; and young Nesselrode, who began life in the army, soon found his way into the diplomatic service. He was a favourite with the Emperor Paul, and was believed to share with that monarch admiration for Bonaparte, and dislike towards the interests of England. On the assassination of Paul, Nesselrode anticipated dismissal from his employment; but he had become too useful to be removed and too pliant to render that step necessary. Under Alexander he had no scruple in breaking with Napoleon and attaching himself to the cause of the Allies, though it may be doubted whether his secret leanings, discreetly applied, had not considerable influence in inducing his master to wheel round to the side of Napoleon. He accompanied Alexander on that memorable occasion when the Russian Emperor and Napoleon had their personal interview on the raft in the middle of the river at Tilsit, and assisted afterwards at the treaty which is known by the name of that town. In fact, through all the oscillations of Russian policy during the war, Nesselrode remained by his master's side, his influence ever widening and extending. At the Congress of Vienna he took an influential part. In conjunction with Metternich of Austria he drew up the treaty of the Holy Alliance; and all through the forty years of peace his name was popularly considered as the incarnation of Russian policy, menacing or cajoling all neighbouring States, and repressing free thought wherever his influence extended. Especially he was believed to be the evil genius of Russia. He remained in office through the Crimean War, but retired at the peace, and has not since been in active employment. While he was in power his name was feared everywhere; yet he lived to see the downfall of his system and the reversal of his most cherished maxims of policy.

PRINCE WINDISCHGRATZ.—Prince Windischgratz, whose death is announced in accounts from Vienna, entered the military service in 1804. He commanded the Cuirassiers of the Grand Duke Constantine at Leipzig, and distinguished himself during the French campaign at Troyes and at La Fère-Champenoise. His military renown, however, dates from the year 1848, when he suppressed the Slave movement in Bohemia, and maintained a four days' battle with the inhabitants of Vienna. His wife perished at Prague on the 11th of June in the same year, having been killed while sitting at a window during the assault. Conqueror at Prague and Vienna, he was defeated by the Hungarians, having been driven from Pesth-Buda by Georgi in April, 1849. Since that time he has lived in retirement. The last days of this reactionary chief were saddened by seeing the principles against which he had fought so obstinately carried out partially, at all events, by the Government which he was supposed to have saved. On one occasion, during the first Session of the Reichsrath, his chagrin found expression. He ascended the tribune of the Upper Chamber and prophesied new catastrophes, the necessary consequence, he said, of the statute of February; and he announced that he was, as heretofore, ready to protect Austria with his sword. This language found no echo, however, in the Chamber, and the deceased Prince did not subsequently appear in public life.

SIR WILLIAM SWEELL.—The colonelcy of her Majesty's 79th Regiment of Foot has become vacant by the death of General Sir William Swell, which occurred at Florence on the 13th inst. The deceased General commenced his military career on March 7, 1806, and in the following year, having been appointed Aide-de-Camp to General Beresford, accompanied him to the Peninsula, and joined the Duke of Wellington's army in Portugal in 1808. He was present with Sir John Moore's army in its advance, and in its retreat to Corunna, and acted as Aide-de-Camp to Lord Beresford through the Peninsula War, being present at the battles of Corunna, Talavera, Busaco, and the sieges of Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, and St. Sebastian, the battles of Nivelle, Nive, before Bayonne, Orthez, and Toulouse, besides other engagements of less importance. Having returned from the Peninsula, he proceeded to India, where he served for a period of twenty-eight years, and was appointed to the colonelcy of the 79th Foot on the 21st of March, 1851. In the general actions in which the deceased General took part he had six horses either killed or wounded under him. In recognition of his services he was made a C.B., afterwards a K.C.B., and had received the war medal with ten clasps.

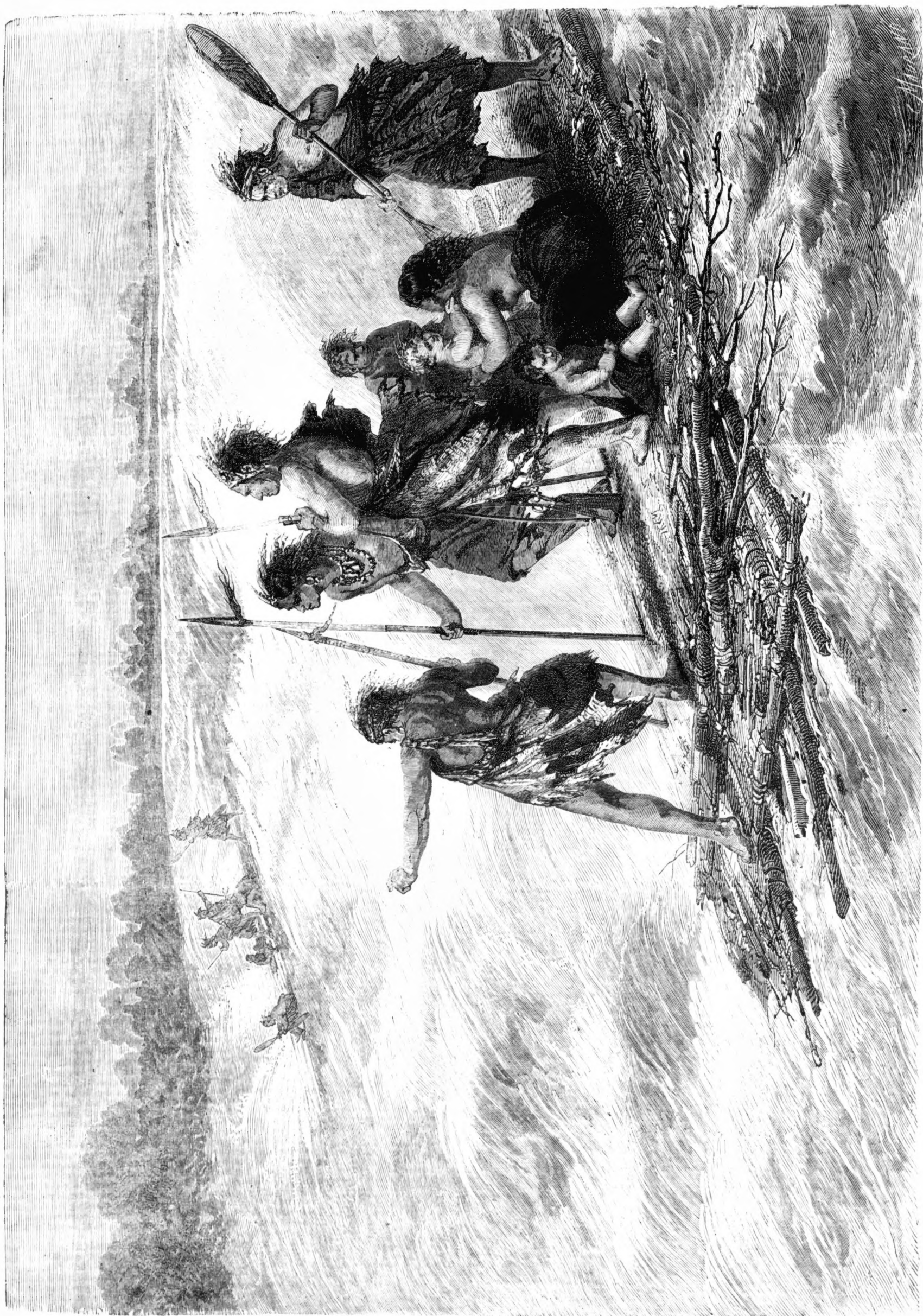
INDIANS DESCENDING THE RAPIDS OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

The great River St. Lawrence, the upper part of which was formerly called the Iroquois, runs north-east from Lake Ontario for more than 700 miles to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in the Atlantic, and is the great thoroughfare for Canadian and North American commerce. Both the banks of the river and its lower lakes are studded with important cities—Quebec, Montreal, St. Francis, Cape Vincent, Toronto, Buffalo, and others. It is navigable for ships of the line as far as Quebec, and for vessels of heavy burden to Montreal, 580 miles from the sea. In the middle of its course are inclosed numerous islands, and it is here that its rapids are formed.

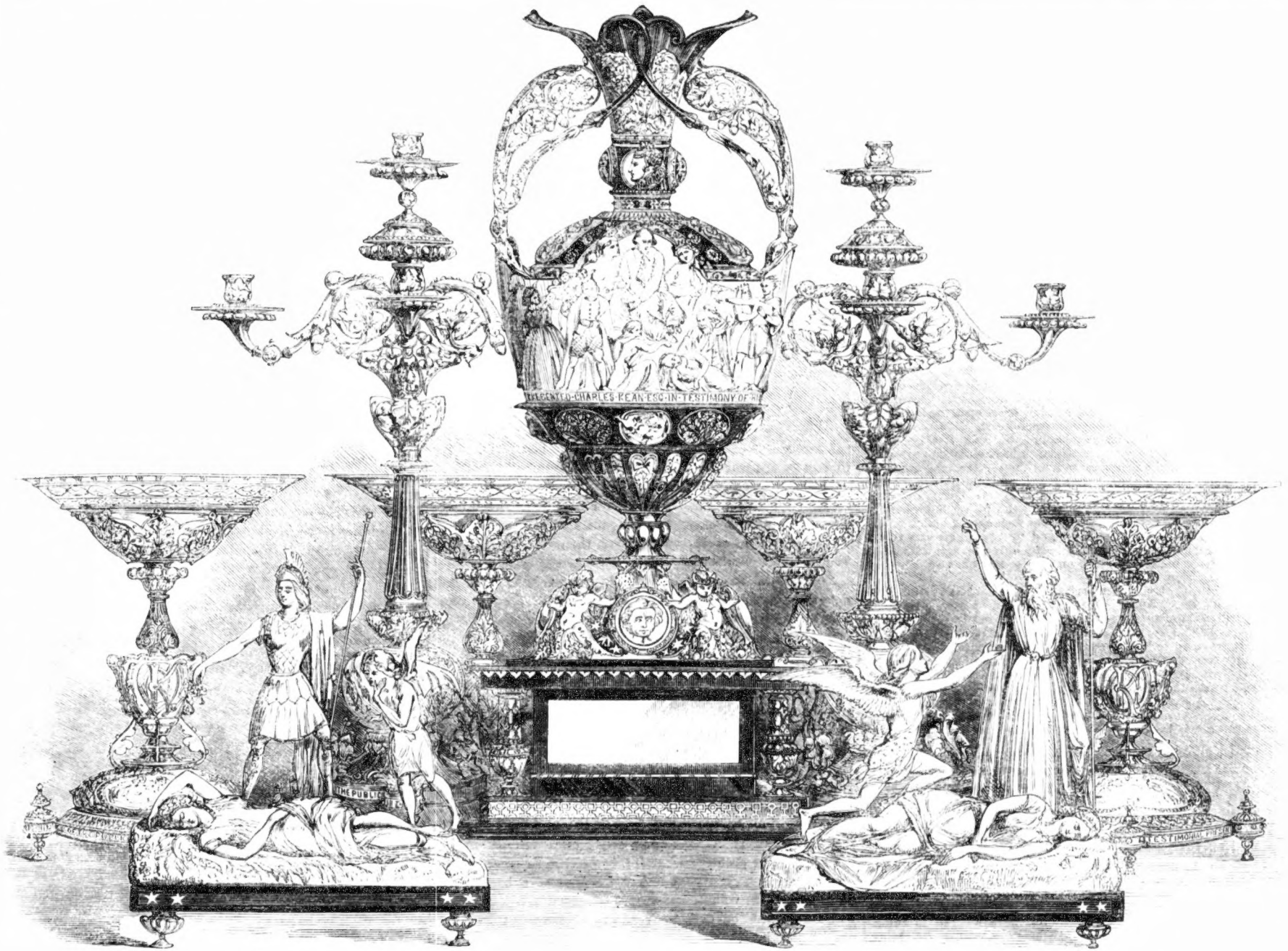
The Indian has in our time almost entirely succumbed to the advances of civilisation, which, since it ceases to be allied to the cruelties which were formerly practised in its name, has begun to embrace these savages and to enable them to form communities which are surprising for their advancement and the ready adaptation of European manners. The Cherokees especially exhibit remarkable aptitude in appropriating the mechanical arts; they live under a well-constituted Government, exercising electoral rights for the choice of the Executive, and comprising both a legislative and judicial assembly; their schools are completely established, and they have even for some time past published newspapers and journals—a state which has grown even beyond the limits of imitation, and entitles them to all the considerations of a civilised community.

In advancing towards the north, however, the tribes still retain their savage characteristics, although they improve again in Canada, where are located the Hurons, the Iroquois, the Algonquins, and the Chippewas. The Sioux have retired into Nebraska, on the banks of the higher Missouri. The Indians were formerly, in consequence of their dwelling in the neighbourhood of the lakes, intrepid navigators; even now they are frequently to be seen tempting the dangerous waters in their frail canoes, and will even upon occasions venture to descend the rapids of the St. Lawrence on rafts formed of a few branches of trees bound together.

Our Engraving represents the Long Sault Rapids, where the current attains a speed of twenty miles an hour. It would seem that nothing could successfully resist the frightful velocity of these falls, and yet it is not to the Indians alone that the daring attempt is confined, since every day a steamer sets out with passengers from Toronto, and, after descending the rapids, arrives safely at Montreal. Of course, the steam is shut off, and the vessel is allowed to shoot down the current, but the pilot is generally an Indian who, with that marvellous and immovable presence of mind which is his national characteristic, and his quick, farseeing eyes, is better calculated to guide the boat on its dangerous way, where the least tacking about or serious deviation of the rudder would immediately engulf them all. As it is, the vessel creaks and strains in its battle with the seething waters, while the froth at its prow rises to an extraordinary height, and falls in flaky torrents on the deck.



INDIANS DESCENDING THE LONG SALT RAPIDS ON THE RIVER ST. LAWRENCE.



THE KEAN TESTIMONIAL.—SEE PAGE 194.



VIEW OF THE RUINS OF CAMPDEN HOUSE, SKETCHED FROM THE GARDEN SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRE.

DESTRUCTION OF CAMPDEN HOUSE, KENSINGTON, BY FIRE.

On Sunday morning, about four o'clock, a fire of a very serious character occurred, which in a comparatively brief space of time laid in ruins the princely mansion known as Campden House, the property of Mr. W. F. Woolley, situated in the Campden House-road, Kensington. The building in question was of considerable magnitude, and contained thirty elegantly-furnished rooms, picture-galleries, and the private theatre in which the Campden amateur artists used to perform for charitable objects. The building was of great antiquity, having been erected, it is stated, as far back as the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The magnificent manner in which the staircases, the entrances to the different suites of apartments, and the corridors were fitted up was the admiration of all who had entered the premises. Adjoining this mansion was another, almost as large, termed The Elms, belonging to Mr. Augustus Leopold Egg, A.R.A., who at the present time is away in Africa on business. This building has also been considerably burned.

The discovery was made by a police-constable of the T division, who, in passing along his beat, noticed a small quantity of smoke hovering about the side of the building, which he at first imagined was occasioned by one of the conservatory flues, but before he had time to get round to learn whether such was the case or not, the fire told its own tale by rushing out of several windows in the lower part of Campden House. The officer at once set about to awaken the inmates, and, having accomplished that object, the whole of the residents were enabled to effect their escape in safety. One of the servant girls leaped from a third-floor window upon the lawn, but, we are glad to say, was not seriously injured, notwithstanding the great height from which she jumped. In less than five minutes afterwards the flames appeared to have obtained possession of nearly twenty of the rooms, as well as the theatre, and, owing to the strong wind blowing at the time, it seemed impossible to prevent the conflagration from extending to Mr. Egg's mansion. The most vigorous attempts were therefore made by the police and others in removing the valuable furniture from the endangered building, and some £1000 worth of books, pictures, and furniture were carried out of the building and deposited on the lawn; but, although the various articles were not burned, a great amount of loss was occasioned by water and breakage.

Information of the disaster having been dispatched to the Kensington and Notting-hill fire-brigade stations, in a very brief space of time three engines arrived, and were immediately set to work; but it soon became apparent that the flames had obtained too strong a hold to succumb to the power of only three engines. Messengers were therefore sent in cabs to London for the aid of the fire brigade, but the fire rising so high into the air became a far more speedy messenger than the parties sent off. This caused a general turn-out of ten manual fire-engines of the London fire-engine establishment, and the land steam-engine by Shand and Mason, and also the ponderous machine belonging to Messrs. Hodges, the distillers, of Lambeth.

Upon reaching Campden House the scene that presented itself was of a grand but fearful character, for immense sheets of flame were rolling out of every window in the extensive establishment, making a noise like the rumbling of distant thunder; and at the same time the fire was attacking with full vigour the east end of Mr. Egg's mansion—the ground floor, with the first and second floors at that portion, being in flames, as well as a portion of the roof. The firemen under Captain Shaw and the other officers in command went to work, and, with the aid of the parish engineers and nearly a hundred hired auxiliaries, they fortunately succeeded in cutting off the further extension of the flames in the direction of "The Elms," but the main body of flame in Campden House could not be extinguished for several hours, and not until the building and all it contained were reduced to ruins. The total loss must be considerable, the furniture, mirrors, &c., being of the most costly description, and some of the pictures destroyed were worth £1,000 each.

As to the origin of the fire not the least information could be obtained. It appears that when the family and the servants retired to bed not so much as the smell of anything burning or even smouldering was experienced by any of the inmates.

Mr. Timbs, in his "Curiosities of London," furnishes us with the following particulars respecting this fine old mansion:—"Campden House, Kensington, originally approached from the town by an avenue of elms, was built, about 1612, by Sir Baptist Hicks, afterwards Viscount Campden, who purchased the property of Sir Walter Cope; or, traditionally, won it of him 'at some sort of game.' The house is of red brick, with stone finishings, and has a central porch, bay-window, once fitted with armorial glass, and flanking turrets with cupolas. The great dining-room, in which Charles II. supped with Lord Campden, has a rich armorial ceiling in stucco, floridly carved wainscot, and a tabernacle mantelpiece, with Corinthian columns, and caryatid figures finely sculptured. The state apartments on the first floor include Queen Anne's bedchamber, and the globe-room, originally a chapel, and communicating with the garden terrace; all the other rooms have richly stuccoed ceilings and marble mantelpieces. During the Protectorate the Sequestration Committee sat here. Queen Anne, when Princess of Denmark, resided five years at Campden House with her son, the Duke of Gloucester, who kept a regiment of boy-soldiers here, and had a puppet-theatre built. Lord Lechmere, the lawyer and staunch Whig, lived here when he had his quarrel with Sir John Guise, ridiculed in Swift's ballad of 'Duke upon Duke':—

Back in the dark, by Brompton Park,
He turned up, thro' the Gore,
And slunk to Campden House so high,
All in his coach and four.
The Duke, in wrath, call'd for his steeds,
And fiercely drove them on;
Lord! Lord! how rattled then thy stones,
O kingly Kensington!

"The gardens, in which the wild olive and caper tree once flourished, have been much reduced, but the house retains its original front. Among the relics are two dogs (supporters of the Campden arms) which formerly surmounted the gateway piers, and are cleverly sculptured. Westward is Little Campden House [now styled "The Elms"], built during the Princess Anne's residence at Campden House; it has an outer arcaded gallery, and was once occupied by the Right Hon. William Pitt."

HIS MAJESTY AT A SICK-BED.—The Rev. H. Hulcott, an Army chaplain, having occasion to visit an aged woman at Osborne, saw sitting by the bedside a lady in deep mourning, reading the Word of God. He was about to retire, when the lady remarked, "Pray remain. I should not wish the invalid to lose the comfort which a clergyman might afford." The lady retired, and the clergyman found lying on the bed a book with texts of Scripture adapted to the sick; and he found that out of that book portions of Scripture had been read by the lady in black. The lady was the Queen.

MILITARY MONARCHS.—It is a notable fact, of considerable significance to all who take an interest in the philosophy of clothes, that nearly every one of the Sovereigns of Continental Europe makes the military coat his ordinary dress. The rulers of Portugal and of Sweden, and, to a certain extent, the head of Imperial France, are, we believe, the only Monarchs who ever wrap their Royal limbs in homely broadcloth, and dispense with the rainbow hues and gaudy trimmings of the soldier's jacket. The thirty Kings of Germany dress in uniform, one and all.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER AT BRIGHTON.—A serious and singular case of attempt to murder took place at Brighton on Saturday. A man named Belsey was about to be married to a domestic servant in the family of a gentleman residing at Brighton, and the bridal procession was on its way to church, when the bridegroom turned back for his gloves, and the wedding party, after waiting an hour in church for him, returned in confusion. The bride went back to her master's service, and in the course of the afternoon Belsey called there, when the master, who went to the door, refused him admission. A struggle ensued, and another servant, coming to her master's assistance, was shot at by Belsey with a revolver. He was immediately afterwards apprehended, and has been committed for trial.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1862.

A PEEP INTO THE TENT.

AMONG one of the attractions at a fête last year at the Crystal Palace was a so-called "tent of mystery." The sole inducement to visitors to pay to view the interior of this awful construction was that nobody could or would tell what was to be seen within. Whereupon numerous innocent persons paid for the privilege of becoming wiser than their neighbours. They entered, and beheld—nothing at all.

Now, in the economy of this country we have just such another tent of mystery, on a far grander scale. The prices of admission, even to the back places, whence its secrets can be peeped at, are enormous, and fluctuate according to the value of Army commissions. Once initiated, the neophyte is supposed to be bound to defend against all comers the immaculate excellence of the institution. That institution has a triple aspect, as a mystery, a power, and a bugbear, and is popularly known as "the Horse Guards." When, in the course of ordinary duty, some zealous Parliamentary defender of public economy or the dictates of common sense ventures to hint a fault in this peculiar department, it is at once proclaimed as a mystery, which no civilian eye can for a moment behold, much less dare to scan critically. To the subaltern, to the scarred veteran, it displays itself as a power omnipotent for good or evil, for promotion, reward, or neglect, as the case may be. Upon certain occasions it is represented as a bugbear, as lately, when the volunteer force of England was threatened with its domination over their affairs as the worst evil that could befall them.

Every other branch of the State is open and amenable to public criticism. The decisions of our Judges, the policy of the Ministry, the very speeches of Peers in council in the Upper House, are patent to the humblest individual among the people. The collective wisdom of the Horse Guards demands as a necessity of its existence that it should be inscrutable.

But so repugnant is this secrecy to the natural order of human affairs, not to say of English government, that every now and then the public obtains a glimpse of the kind of business transacted even at the Horse Guards, and the way in which it is done. Most newspaper readers remember the curious case of the traffic in Army commissions, and how exceedingly comfortably to all parties that little matter was concluded without any particular exposure of anybody who might have cared about it; also the convenient shelving of the Chelsea Commission; also the curious disclosures of the Weedon frauds. Now we have another curious little military scandal. The 2nd Life Guards, one of those regiments most specially associated in the popular mind with the Horse Guards and its sentry-boxes, is, it appears, in a state something like mutiny. It is reported that its Colonel resides in London, while the regiment is quartered at Windsor. Possibly he may endeavour to compensate for this by going to Windsor when his regiment is called to do duty at London, and perhaps the regiment may be none the worse for his absence. But the public has an inconvenient system of requiring from its paid servants the best services they can give, whether valuable or otherwise, and the Colonel's absence from his regiment appears to have excited some remark upon its being found that his regiment was indulging in such unmilitary freaks as hooting its own officers on parade. This is alleged to be the fruit of the present style of command in vogue in the regiment. The Colonel has his attention drawn to the fact and does not punish the men. It really seems to us that this is a great sign of conscientiousness. But the "Horse Guards" appears to judge differently. Had the gallant officer simply neglected his duty, perhaps the public might never have been the wiser. But when the regiment, in consequence of such neglect, falls into a bad state, and the commander neglects to visit upon the men the consequences of his own fault, the matter really becomes serious to the country, and investigation ought to follow as a necessary result.

But, supposing for a moment that strict justice, according to the ordinary rules of human conduct, were to be awarded in such a case; that, instead of flogging a few ill-governed giants, their officers were held to blame for not keeping them, according to bounden duty, in proper subjection; how far back is the fountain-head of the whole affair to be traced? Whose fault is it that an officer incompetent or unwilling to attend to his duty has been placed and suffered to remain in a position of such

high trust and grave responsibility? If a Colonel is to be censured because his men are insubordinate, what is to be done to a body which has appointed and retained a censurable Colonel?

The fact is that every glimpse the public can get of this Horse Guards' tent of mystery tends to prove that there is really nothing in it. There can be no doubt that our military matters, despite their secrecy, despite the contemptuous arrogance with which civilian interposition is constantly met, are governed with far less talent, care, and judgment than other departments of the national administration. This is what has been shown by every peep into the tent. The comparative public irresponsibility is at the bottom of the whole matter. The idea appears to be carefully instilled as a first principle into the military mind under the present system. It seems to be considered proper even to despise grammatical arrangement in military orders. We have frequently observed that our volunteer commanders have sometimes descended to this miserable affectation. There could not be a greater error. A soldier certainly need not be a pedant; but it should never be forgotten that at Balaclava one of the finest brigades of the British Army was almost utterly sacrificed because a commanding officer could or would only write an important order in such style that no two other men could agree upon its meaning.

We have pointed out the source of the evil and its remedy. It is almost inconceivable that a branch of the State so vital as that of our military administration and organisation should be the only one in which it is possible to commit the most flagrant delinquencies, blunders, and frauds without that just penalty of public reprobation which would inevitably ensue in any department of our social or political constitution.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE KING OF SWEDEN has conferred the decoration of the Pole Star upon Mr. R. Wilde, of Dublin, Surgeon-Oculist in Ordinary to her Majesty, and Vice-President of the Royal Irish Academy.

LORD ELGIN, the new Viceroy of India, arrived at Calcutta on the 1st of March.

THE EARL OF DERBY, at the present time, is said to have 125 persons employed in the preservation of game, at the cost of £1000 a year.

THE POPE has sent £100 to the relief of Irish distress.

A LIVE FROG was found in the centre of a block of coal recently dug out of a mine near Newport.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS AND LIBERATED AFRICANS introduced into the West India colonies between 1843 and 1861 is 141,044.

THE DOWAGER LADY WEBSTER has presented to the Corporation of Hastings and St. Leonards the valuable historical picture of "The Battle of Hastings," by Wilkins, which has for many years attracted attention in the great hall at Battle Abbey.

THE HON. CLARA MACKAY, aged 39, daughter of the Right Hon. Lord Reay, who had been suffering from mental delusions, threw herself from a window at Plymouth, a few days ago, and received such injuries that she died.

AN AUSTRALIAN FIRM has offered Mr. Charles Dickens £10,000, or £5000 they bearing all his expenses, traveling, house, servants, a liberal table, carriage, &c., if he will go and read in that colony.

THE MONKEY-ORDER SYSTEM is to be extended to the Cape of Good Hope on the 1st of April.

A LETTER FROM ALEXANDRIA (Egypt) states that the European theatre of that city was totally destroyed by fire on the night of the 8th inst.

It is the intention of the Drinking-fountains Association to give an oratorio on a large scale early in the month of June.

AN EARLY MARRIAGE has been heard of at Brussels—the youth aged sixteen, the same age as the girl. A dispensation was necessary.

SEVERAL "CRIMINAL ACCIDENTS" have been reported during the past week, in all of which the sufferers' dresses caught fire while standing too near a stove for the present "enormous expansion" of female attire. Death in each instance resulted from the injuries sustained.

THE TOBACCO CROD in many parts of Cuba is stated to have entirely failed.

A YOUNG LADY OF CALIFORNIA recently broke her neck while resisting the attempt of a young man to kiss her. The young man broke his heart, of course.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD that the estate of the late Mr. Duncan Dunbar has been placed in Chancery for administration. This step was taken by the executors for their own security in dealing with property of such magnitude.

A CARPENTER OF STUTTGART has been committed for trial on a charge of cutting off the long hair of a number of young girls in that city. Fifteen magnificent plaited braids of hair were discovered at his lodgings.

ON THE 13TH OF JANUARY last the captain of the steamer Edward Hawkins, of Hull, lost his hat overboard. A few days afterwards he captured a shark eleven feet long, on opening which the lost hat was found in its maw.

AN INFLUENTIAL MEETING was held in London last week at which it was resolved to erect a statue of the late Mr. Joseph Locke, of engineering celebrity.

AMONG THE PASSENGERS BY THE STEAMER ETNA, which arrived at Liverpool on Saturday week from New York, was an old lady, a black, a native of Hayti, more than sixty-five years of age, the hair on whose head is upwards of 17in. long, and looks like sheep's wool.

THE DILLINGBURN SUGAR REFINERY at Greenock has been destroyed by fire.

THE FOLLOWING CURIOUS NOTICE for the benefit of English travellers is exhibited in the carriages of a foreign railway:—"You are requested not to put no heads nor arms out of windows."

WORTHING PIEN will, it is said, be formally opened on Saturday, April on which occasion sundry M.P.'s and other leading persons will take part in the inaugural ceremony.

THE TREATY OF COMMERCE between Great Britain and Turkey came into operation on the 13th instant.

It is said that Mr. and Mrs. Windham have separated, the lady receiving £20,000 as a solatium. The Marquis of Abercorn has taken Felbrigg Hall. Mr. Windham is amusing himself by driving a sort of stage-coach in which he carries passengers gratis.

JUDGING from the number of envelopes supplied to the Government officer, the number of letters actually written on the public service must considerably exceed 12,000,000 a year!

It is said that there is a likelihood of a monolith suitable for the National Albert Memorial being found on the estate of Balmoral.

THE LAMB SEASON this year appears to be unusually prolific. There are many cases in which ewes have three and four lambs each, and in some large flocks the entire number of ewes will average two lambs each.

ON DIT that a new French secretaryship of State is about to be created for the exclusive management and superintendence of railway companies. It is said that M. Didion, the manager of the Orleans Company, will have the first offer of this post.

THE STORING OF PETROLEUM ROCK OIL in the London Docks has created a sensation among the insurance offices. The oil is said to be highly and easily inflammable, and at present there are said to be thousands of casks of it in the London Dock warehouses.

THE DIVISIONAL COMMAND IN BENGAL vacant by the resignation of Major-General Wingham, C.B., will be filled by Colonel Michael W. Smith, C.B., of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, who served with much distinction in Central India during the rebellion.

FREDERICK COLBORNE CURTIS, formerly an officer in a militia regiment having gone to America, where he holds a commission in the Federal service, deserting his wife and children, leaving them chargeable to the parish of Sunderland, a warrant has been granted against him.

NUMBER OF ALL OFFENCES, specially reported, in Ireland for 1861 was 3881. Of these 915 occurred in Ulster, 1077 in Leinster, 1011 in Munster, and 780 in Connaught.

ORDER issued by a Confederate officer in the department of the Interior, to the effect that any person who should be found in the act of shooting a gun, or of getting behind a tree and hitting his mark.

SAID DAY LAST JOHN GRAY, aged nineteen, son of a poor man, shot himself in a London cab. Inside the cab was found a letter to the deceased and addressed to his father, in which he expressed a hope of forgiveness.

AMERICANS, it is said, are preparing for war with Canada. They are building gun-boats, and are fortifying House's Point, three hours from Montreal.

AT THE LIVERPOOL POLICE COURT, on Friday week, Thomas Barrowcliffe, employed in the Palace of Wales's Theatre, was sent to prison for six weeks for stealing a quantity of jewellery, clothing, &c., belonging to Mr. Mrs. Alfred Wiggin, who were fulfilling an engagement in that town.

A DEPUTATION of the Supreme Council of the Grand Orient of Italy, of Scotch rite of Freemasons, has arrived at Turin from Palermo, to assist Garibaldi with the insignia and diploma of the grand mastership of the order, to which dignity the General has been unanimously elected.

THE NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE has passed a resolution commending to Mr. John Bright for the fearless manner in which he has spoken before the people of England and in the British Parliament, the principles of constitutional liberty and international justice, for the maintenance of which the American people are contending.

A DELEGATION of the manufacturers of embroidery at Nancy have been received by the Empress of the French, to whom they pointed out the sad state of that branch of business, in which a considerable number of workmen were lately employed. The Empress promised to make such arrangements in her toilet as would allow the use of embroidery.

LETTERS received by the last mail from Fernando Po report that Captain Banton, in company with the Spanish Judge Señor Calvo and Mr. Gustaf Mann, had sailed the unknown Cameroon mountain. At 7000 ft. above the sea the climate was delightful, "birds singing in the forest, 45 deg. at night, and a sun which one may bask in."

FOUR HUNDRED OFFICERS-SERJEANTS favoured Secretary Stanton with a call on Monday. Among them was an old man on crutches, who presented his card thus:—"I suppose I'm not young and spry enough for a lieutenant in the army, but I should make a good General. I can ride on horseback, I don't see that Generals hereabout do anything more."

THE WASTE PAPER OF THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES, which is collected and sold by the Stationery Office, produced above £7000 last year, and is expected to bring nearly the same sum this year. This is independent of the "blue books," printed, but not read, which, after the lapse of a certain time, are disposed of as waste paper by Mr. Hansard.

THE FALL OF SNOW IN WILTSHIRE AND SOMERSETSHIRE on Friday week was the heaviest that has been known for some years. In the Mendip district snow lay so deep that the roads were blocked up and farmers were unable to proceed to market. The running of the trains on the East Somerset line was also much delayed.

THE CEREMONY OF UNCOVERING THE MEMORIAL STONE erected by the Marquis of Salisbury to the memory of the late Mr. Braidwood, Superintendent of the London Fire Brigade, in the west wall of the chief entrance to Mr. Novell's wharf, Tooley-street, Borough, took place on Saturday last, in the presence of a large number of the friends of the deceased.

THE CUSTOMS REVENUE IN TASMANIA, in 1859, was £131,590; in 1859, £117,540; in 1861, £111,546. The falling off is chiefly due to the fact that the clip of wool for the last season has been very small. The value of the average excellence. The winding enterprise in connection with the Tasmanian ports continues to be remunerative.

THE TREASURE EXPORTED FROM CALIFORNIA during last year was £1,000,000, and the value of the merchandise exports £581,821. The value of 2,075,700 tons was exported to Great Britain during the year. 20,616 passengers landed at California in 1861. Since the discovery of gold in California upwards of 80,000 Chinese have landed there, and 25,000 have gone back to China.

MR. JUSTICE WILLIAMS, presiding over the Assizes at Warwick, has granted an application for the discharge of Mr. Richard Guinness, which is made on the part of the prosecution, and decided that the case must be before the grand jury.

IT IS rumoured in diplomatic circles that Count Bernstorff, the late Prussian Minister, is likely before long to resume his former duties as representative of the King of Prussia at the British Court.

MR. HEATH, the Vicar of Reading, has appealed from the decision of the Court of Arches, who sent him to the deprivation of his living for holding unsound doctrines in a volume of sermons.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER has consented to preside at the meeting of the Association of Lancashire and Cheshire Mechanics' Bureaux, which will take place in the Free-trade Hall, Manchester, on Wednesday, the 23rd proximo.

MR. HENRY PETERS, who was for many years shipping-master at Bristol, has been committed for trial on a charge of forgery.

THE DEATH is announced of Mr. Edmund Auchmuty Glover, ex-M.P. for

Wednesday evening a soirée was held in the hall of the Whittington School, in honour of Mr. G. H. Whalley, M.P., and in acknowledgment of his services in opposing the grant to Maynooth.

A MEETING was held on Wednesday at Liverpool for the purpose of putting a movement for founding several scholarships in memory of the Prince Consort, to be called "The Albert Memorial Scholarships."

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE debate upon the revised code, which was adjourned on Tuesday night, was resumed on Thursday. It is expected (I write before the close of the preliminary debate) that on Monday the House in Committee will proceed with the first resolution to be moved by Mr. Walpole; and on that a division will be taken, and, if the resolution should be carried against the Government, as it no doubt will be by a large majority, Mr. Lowe will give up all opposition, and the revised code, which has caused such excitement, will be withdrawn. It is, however, understood that, when the way is thus cleared, some compromise will be entered into between the belligerents and a new code introduced that shall be made, if possible, pleasant to all parties. I have hinted that the Government will be defeated, and of this, I think, there cannot be a doubt. Indeed, it is questionable whether a third of the members will be found on the side of the Government. On Tuesday, it will be observed, not a single independent member rose to speak in favour of the code; even Radical Mr. Forster, of Bradford, condemned it. And yet it is generally believed that something ought to be done to keep down the expenditure in the Educational Department, and to secure that we get results for our money. I confess, however, that I do not see how any effective change can be made; for we have now such an army of schoolmasters, pupil-teachers, and clerical trustees and managers of all denominations interested in increasing expenditure, and we have created such a mass of vested interests, that any move towards economy and efficiency will be excessively difficult if not impossible. When the educational grants were first made, no such result as this was contemplated except by the extreme men who advocated the principle that State education is mischievous; but there it is: we have created a power that is now our master, a fifth estate we may call it, and, if the educational grants go on increasing at the rate at which they have increased, this fifth estate will be more powerful than all the rest. Some of the Radicals say that this fight between Walpole and Lowe is "a cross"—that they understand each other.

LORD PALMERSTON has not shown in the House for several days. He is not well. His old enemy podagra has given him another rough grip. He has, however, taken the noble Lord by the hand and not by the foot this time. But his Lordship has not been confined to his house. Every day he has taken an airing in his carriage with Lady Palmerston. It is a rare thing to see his Lordship in a carriage, and when we see him thus boxed up we know that it is not well with him. Be the weather hot or cold, wet or dry, the noble Lord when he goes abroad always, if he is well, mounts his horse or pads it on foot. The last report tells us that his Lordship is recovering, and may be expected in the House in a few days.

MR. BOUVIER is to move on Tuesday next for a Select Committee to inquire whether it is practicable to provide a compendious record of Parliamentary proceedings for the use of members. This motion

of Mr. Bouvier points to "The Parliamentary Record," an abridgment of Parliamentary proceedings, got up by Mr. Charles Ross, of the *Times*, and lately circulated amongst the members. It is a very useful compendium; but, if the House adopts it, I trust that it will also be made available for the public.

ON Thursday we are to have the Budget; and it is said we are to have two amendments—one from Mr. Dodson, who will press for the repeal of the hop duty; and another from Mr. H. B. Sheridan, who will move the abolition of the fire insurance tax; that is to say, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not himself deal with these taxes.

I have received a letter from Mr. W. E. Duncan contradicting the statements which I made last week in reference to the West Hartlepool Dock Company; but I need not give the contents of this letter in detail, as they have already been made public through the reports of the proceedings in the House of Commons. Mr. Duncan affirms that Mr. Coleman's allegations, as set forth in his petition to the House, are false. On the other hand, Mr. Coleman says that Mr. Duncan's statements about him (Mr. C.), as published in a paper circulated amongst the members, are altogether untrue. Who speaks the truth I do not undertake to decide.

MR. KEAN'S reply to the speech of Mr. Gladstone at the presentation of the testimonial on Saturday last was very frank, very earnest, and, save in one passage, in very good taste. But why did he speak of the public having "healed every wound inflicted by hostile shafts," and what can these "hostile shafts" have been? Since a hand that plied the brightest scalpel of modern days has been lying cold and nerveless under the sod at Norwood, it is not from the press that these hostile shafts have proceeded. "Save me from my friends!" should be emblazoned in gold on every wall of Mr. Kean's house. It is these injudicious persons, who will not be content with the admission that their idol is a clever actor, an excellent manager, and an honourable gentleman, but who review and re-review his every performance, no matter how often previously criticised or how well known to the public, and who become themselves ridiculous in their idle slattery. It is the mistaken friendship of men like this that evokes such pungent sarcasm as that of Mr. Jerrold, such crushing criticism as that of *Fraser's Magazine*.

ANTIQUARIES and all men of taste will lament the destruction by fire of Campden House, Kensington, which was built two hundred and fifty years ago by Sir Baptist Hicks (who also built that mythic mansion "Hicks's Hall"), and was noted for its quaint stuccoed ceilings, and especially for its handsome mantelpieces. There was a very pretty little theatre in the house, the favourite resort of an aristocratic set of amateurs, who, during the tenancy of Mr. Woolley, the present proprietor, and his predecessor, Colonel Petrie Waugh, of Eastern Bank notoriety, were constantly disporting here, much to their own delectation. The fire also did much damage to the adjacent premises, "The Elms," a charming house, filled with good pictures, old oak carving, and ancient armour, the residence of Mr. Augustus Egg, the well-known artist, who, unfortunately suffering from a pulmonary disease, is at present abroad.

VARIOUS names are mentioned for the future editorship of the *Cornhill Magazine*, among them those of Mrs. Norton and Mr. Antony Trollope. I believe there is not the smallest foundation for either report. The position of editor of such a magazine is infinitely too responsible and too arduous for a lady, although it is said that a lady has hitherto had a great deal to do with the editorial management; and as for Mr. Trollope, he only landed in England on Tuesday last after a seven months' absence in America, and has quite enough on his hands. A contemporary mentions the name of Mr. Wilkie Collins in connection with the berth, but this rumour is equally incorrect, and probably arises from the circumstance that Mr. Collins has engaged to write a novel for publication in the *Cornhill*, the first instalment of which may be expected about the commencement of 1863. Talking of magazines, I see that the *Literary Gazette*, while disclaiming official authority, states the circulation of the *Cornhill* at 30,000, *Temple Bar* at 15,000, and *Mutualist* at 14,000. This is a great falling off, so far as the first is concerned, from the numbers announced in an early "Roundabout Paper."

THE *Morning Chronicle* is dead, after nearly a hundred years' existence. Every one must have seen that for months past it has been moribund. What a number of brilliant names are associated with its career! Woodfall—its originator—Perry, Black, Brougham, Porson, Charles Lamb, Moore, and Campbell—both "Plain John" and Tom the Poet. Charles Dickens was a reporter on its staff, Charles Buller a frequent contributor; then came Henry Ward's regime; then its Peeble days, when Mr. Cooke, now editor of the *Saturday Review*, held the reins—when Henry Mayhew was its special commissioner, Shirley Brooks its Parliamentary summary-writer, and poor Angus Reach its theatrical critic. Then bad days came on it. Serjeant Glover edited it, and a French subvention kept it going, and then it was a Puseyite organ and an anti-English organ, and then came its worst days, and its proprietor went into the Bankruptcy Court, and it died.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER

A little farce of the slightest possible plot, but excellently acted in its principal character by Mr. Toole, has been produced at the Adelphi. It is called "A Private Inquiry."

MR. FECHTER has been playing *Ruy Blas* at the Princess'. Next week he will probably reappear in *Hamlet*.

A MRS. MACREADY, an American lady, has been giving readings in London. I have not yet heard her; but her bills bearing the name "Macready," and the words "Dramatic Readings," in large letters, are startling, making one think, for the moment, that the great ex-tragedian had returned among us.

THE season of the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden, will commence on the 8th of April. The principal artistes engaged are Mlle. Adelina Patti, Mesdames Penco, Didié, Rudersdorf, Tagliafico, Molan-Carralho, Mlles. Anese, Rosa Cillag, Gordosa, and Marie Battu—the two last being new to the English stage; Signors Tamberlik, Neri-Baraldi, Lucchesi, Mario, Gardoni, Rossi, Ronconi, Graziani, Faure, Formes, Tagliafico, Zelger, Nanni, and Capponi—the two latter making their first appearance among us. Mr. Costa is, of course, the conductor; and in the ballet department Mlles. Salvioni and Battalini are the principal danseuses. The repertory does not exhibit much novelty, the "Don Sebastian" of Donizetti being the only opera announced which is not familiar to English audiences. The other pieces to be performed are "Un Ballo in Maschera," "La Figlia del Reggimento," "Guglielmo Tell," "Robert le Diable," "Don Giovanni," "Don Pasquale," "Orfeo e Euridice," "Fra Diavolo," "Les Huguenots," "Dinorah," and "L'Elisir d'Amore." As these operas, however, are among the finest productions of the lyric muse, perhaps the absence of striking novelties will not be regretted by Mr. Gye's patrons.

THE MALT TAX. A meeting of maltsters was held on Monday in the Corn Exchange Coffee-house, Mark-lane, to represent to the Government their grievances under which they lie under the new system of short credit, by which six weeks only is allowed between the assessment of the tax and the time for its payment. There was a general agreement in the condemnation of the mode of levying the tax. A deputation was appointed to wait on the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject.

THE QUEEN AND THE IMAGE BOY.—Her Majesty and some of the Royal family were driving in the neighbourhood of Windsor the other day when her attention was attracted by the stock-in-trade of a poor Italian vendor of images. The carriage was ordered to be stopped; and, with her characteristic consideration and kindness of heart, her Majesty became purchaser of several of the images. But here a laughable incident occurred. When the Queen ordered the Italian to be liberally rewarded, it was discovered that none of the party had sufficient cash to furnish the sum required. The money, however, was speedily procured; and the imageseller was quite delighted when he heard who had been his customer.

SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

THE Thirty-ninth Annual Exhibition of the Society of British Artists is an average one. You know pretty well what to expect there, and you find it pleasant mediocrity hung with much more regard to quality than is seen at the sentry-guarded British Institution; a little harmless favouritism, principally confined to the insertion in large type of their names in the catalogue for the "members;" and nearly a thousand pictures gathered together in well-lighted, well-warmed, and not too much beset rooms. Such is the general nature of this exhibition, and its character thus far has nothing special about it—unless, indeed, it be the preponderance of pictures representing dropsical and bigheaded children—to which we beg to call the attention of the faculty—and the exaggeration of mannerism in many of the "members," exaggeration which grows with their decline and weakens with their weakness in a very serious manner.

NOW here, for instance, is Mr. Zeitter to the fore in ten pictures, on all sorts of subjects. Danubian rafts, Hungarian peasants in every possible pursuit, people in Kent, people everywhere, but all people perfectly faceless. In Mr. Zeitter's pictures all the faces are confused blurs, the two eyes are totally dissimilar, the two dots representing the nose do not agree, and are running off to appeal to the crooked little line supposed to be the mouth, while headgear and hair are so blended as to be undistinguishable, and in one or two cases the background landscape seems to have caught the infection and to be rapidly melting into the skirts of its inhabitants' coats, and actually getting into their heads. Then there is Mr. Hurlstone, the president of the society, who sends several portraits—viz., a little boy and girl, a Spanish gipsy queen, two dreary old people, &c.; but, singularly enough, all of these unfortunate persons are deeply scarred with smallpox. How can this be? Does Mr. Hurlstone confine himself entirely to the limning of those who bless the name of Jenner? We know not; but so it is. And not the faces only are indented and lined, but the ravages of the fell disease have extended to the arms, and in some cases even to the clothes, of the people represented.

MR. ROBERTS has a picture which he calls "The Return of the Lost Sailor," and to which he has affixed a quotation from—"If we mistake not—the 'Message from the Sea,' which runs thus:—"Yes, there he was in bodily flesh and blood; thin, sallow, bearded to the eyes, in his ragged sailor's clothes—but himself!" The sailor looks like a soldier, his beard is of the gentlest, and his clothes are not ragged; the woman whom he clasps needs all his strength, for in a minute she'll infallibly topple over on to the back of her head; and there's a little child on the ground, devoid of hair, but wearing on its head instead a beautiful crop of what is known to market-gardeners and salad-mixers as "curled endive." Close by this effort of genius is a by no means bad bit, entitled "The Careless Boy," by Mr. Robinson. A boy has let fall a tray with a pie on it, and the expression of the mother, "See what you've done!"—well shown in outstretched arms—and the face of a little sister standing by, are both natural and artistic. Mr. Vicat Cole, in No. 97, sends a good picture of "The Brook," with a pretty effect of sunlight on distant meadows, but scarcely realises Mr. Tenyson's notion; and Mr. Green, in "Sunshine in Tuscany," well represents the intense blue of an Italian sky, and gives a good bit of perspective, though the picture is hung almost out of sight. Mr. Woolmer is by no means a bad painter; several of his landscapes with figures are very nice; but we entirely object to the sickly-looking idiot "glowering" at the broken bough, whom he calls "Ophelia;" and as for his picture of "The Maiden's Dream," the background is simply the old "valentine" artists' notion of hands clutching rings and two indefinite parties kneeling before an impalpable altar and in presence of a very sketchy clergyman.

WHAT is meant by "The Ladies' Ford" (No. 182)? If "ford" means, as we believe, a place where water can be safely crossed over, why need the ladies represented be considerably more than semi-nude? If it means a bathing-place, it is very unlikely that ladies of any taste would select such a gloomy spot or care to bathe in gamboge.

MR. W. SALTER, M.A.F., &c. (what's that?), exhibits "King Charles Presenting to his Queen Catherine of Braganza a list of the Ladies he proposes to wait on her Majesty," in which the Queen strikes out the name of Lady Castlemaine from the list. An uninteresting picture generally, but interesting as showing the art of calligraphy in those days: neither Lewis nor Carstairs could have turned out a better pupil than Queen Catherine—*teste*, Mr. Salter! Mr. Henzell's "Gardener's Daughter" (No. 118) has clearly no connection with Mr. Tenyson's female of the same name. She is a coarse, flabby dame; and, instead of the "one rose, but one by those fair fingers pulled," she bears a basket of carrots and turnips! Mr. Peel's picture of "Downholme Bridge" is a pretty bit of landscape, spoiled by the Noah's-ark cows in the foreground. Mr. M. Claxton exhibits "The Life-boat! the Life-boat Saved!" a painful subject, people crowded on the rigging of a sinking ship, but relieved to the unfeeling mind by two comic figures—one a woman in a marvellous attitude plunging after a sinking child, the other a sailor restoring another child to its parent, and exhibiting a most singular development of hair.

MR. PIDDING has a large picture called "Gaming and its Results," which shows but poorly after the spirited treatment of the Baden Kursaal in last year's Academy by Mr. Levin. There are a great many unpleasantly *decolletées* ladies in Mr. Pidding's picture, and the usual man who has lost and is rushing away frantically tearing his hair—an individual of the purest theatrical existence. Mr. M. Anthony has but one picture, "The Pedlar's Visit," a silly title, for the pedlar is an unimportant dot in a cleverly-painted bit of rustic scenery. Mr. G. Cole's "Successful Day in the Warren" is praiseworthy from its thoroughly English treatment: landscape, men, dogs, and donkeys could be found but in our island. Mr. Bromley's "Opera Box" (303) shows us a fair and vulgar woman, who has apparently taken the feather from her hat and twisted it into a wreath, seated at the theatre with a dull and desponding female friend. Mr. Peel's "The Picture" (317) is a clever but apparently unfinished painting; and Mr. Pyne's "Autumn on Lowes Water" (318) looks partly like a mad bit of Turner's and partly like an ill-executed scene-painting. One of the most hideous contributions to the collection is Mr. Moore's "Summer Evening" (327), in the pre-Raphaelite style, where in a dreary farmyard a woman more ugly than Mr. Millais's nun, and without her good expression, is milking an attenuated, bony cow; an equally ugly woman looks on holding a battered pail, a brown cow and a slate-coloured animal with its hair rubbed off are in the back, while a dog in the extremity of mange lies in the foreground. No. 117 has a quotation from "Moore's Melodies" as to the intensely saccharine qualities of love's young dream, and represents a voluptuous young female lying in bed and reading a letter. The painting is good, but the *pose* is awkward, and the left hand would seem to be unfinished. "Anticipation" (450), by Mr. Pidding, presents to us the most insane of young ladies, with a long nose and open lips, looking out of window. The gem of the picture, is, however, the portrait of a comic ancestor on the wall, which is looking round with an "Ah! I see you!" expression.

More about the remaining pictures next week.

THE VOLUNTEER QUESTION.—A meeting of peers and members of Parliament friendly to the volunteer movement was held on Tuesday afternoon in one of the committee-rooms of the House of Commons to consider the present position of the volunteer force, and what steps should be taken to give it permanence. Lord Ellenborough was called to the chair. A resolution was proposed by Lord Ellenborough and seconded by Lord Shaftesbury—"That in the opinion of the meeting it is desirable that a Royal Commission be appointed to inquire into the present position and prospects of the volunteer force, and to suggest what measures, if any, may be required to give it permanence." This resolution was carried unanimously, and, on the motion of Lord Barry, a deputation of Lords and Commons, non-volunteers, was appointed to lay the resolution, on the part of the meeting, before the Secretary of State for War.



CAMPDEN HOUSE, KENSINGTON, AFTER THE FIRE—VIEW OF THE PRINCIPAL ENTRANCE.—SEE PAGE 202.

CRICKETING AT THE ANTIPODES.

THE ALL-ENGLAND ELEVEN IN AUSTRALIA.

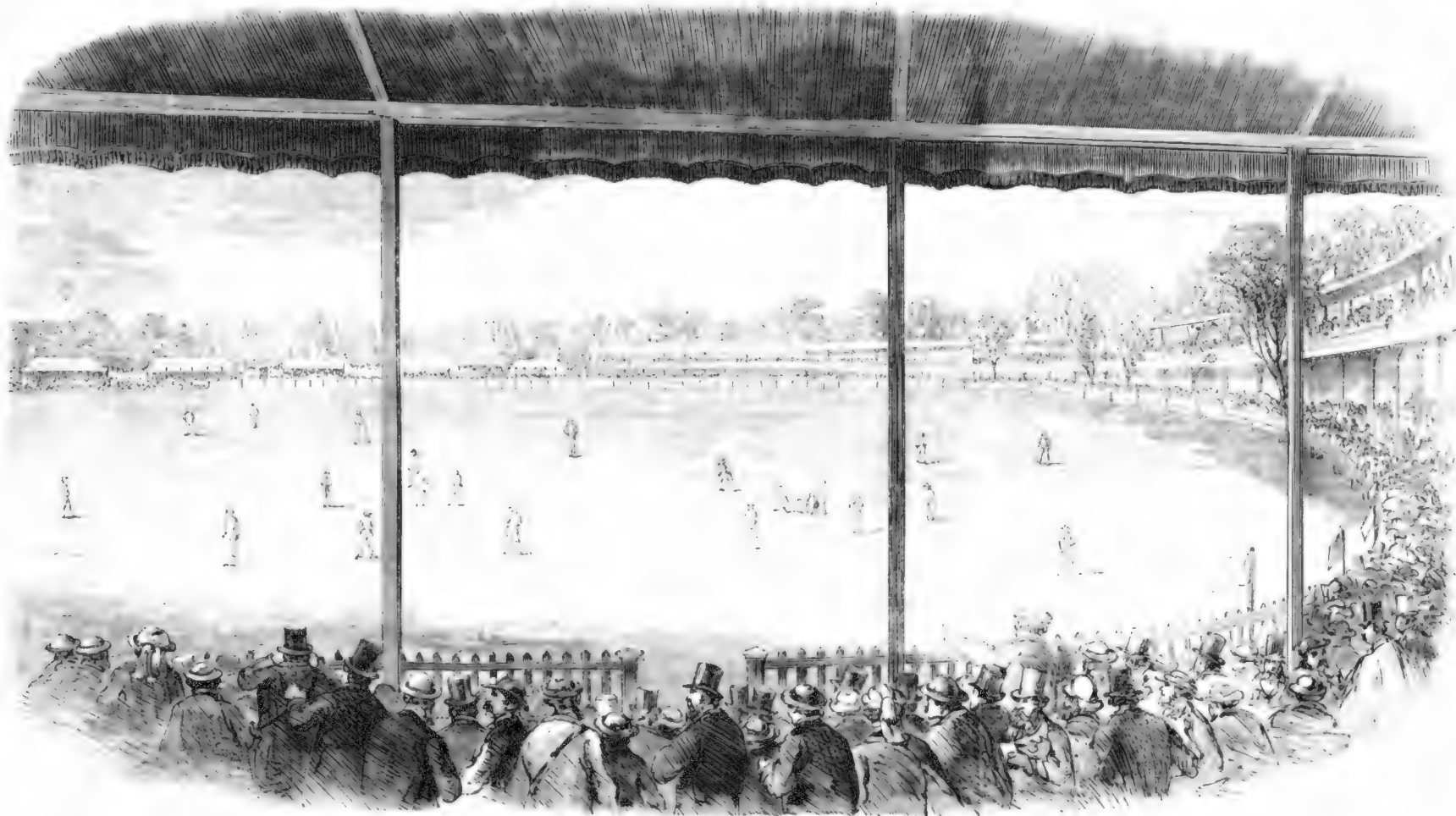
THE Australian papers give full accounts of the doings of the All-England cricketers. The first match was played at Melbourne between the Eleven and eighteen of the Victorian cricketers. It lasted four days, and caused immense excitement in the colony.

The *Melbourne Age* says:—"Never before has such a sight been seen in Melbourne—indeed, we may go further, and say in the Australian colonies—as that which was witnessed on the Melbourne Cricket-ground. The Grand Stand (seated for 5000 persons) was crowded to excess. Around the inclosure set apart for the players stood the spectators in densely-packed rows; whilst far away, wherever a glimpse of the game could be obtained, nothing could

be seen but one mass of human beings, and even the very trees in the reserve were almost crowded with the more adventurous and enthusiastic. Altogether there could not have been fewer than from 20,000 to 25,000 persons present on the first day. Added to this the numerous booths, with their flags gaily fluttering in the breeze, the green and well-made turf in the centre, upon which the game was being played, and the spectacle may be readily conceived to be one that will be long remembered by all who witnessed it. On the second day of the match 13,000 people were admitted to the ground, besides which there were thousands of outside spectators. On the third day 10,000 people were admitted, and on the fourth between 13,000 and 14,000. The charges, we may mention, were to the 'hill reserve,' 1s.; to the ground itself, 2s. 6d.; and to the grand stand, 5s.

It will be readily seen, therefore, that Messrs. Spiers and Pond, who carried out the project of sending for the Eleven upon their own responsibility, have little cause to repent of their enterprise."

In this match the Melbourne Eighteen first went to the wickets, and their play was considered admirable, for, though their wily and practised opponents enticed some of the best men out, 117 runs were secured. Caffyn was put to bowl at first, but was not very successful, and the wickets were taken by Bennett and Griffith. Upon the Eleven going to the wickets, it soon became evident that they had mastered their opponents' bowling. The display of batting was perfect, and it took two days to complete their innings. Caffyn scored 79, Griffith 61, E. Stephenson 31, Iddison 31, Mudie 22, Laurence 20, Mortlock (not out) 11, Hearne 8, Sewell 3, and H. H. Stephenson



THE GREAT CRICKET MATCH IN AUSTRALIA BETWEEN THE ELEVEN OF ALL ENGLAND AND EIGHTEEN OF MELBOURNE.

2—the total being 305. In their second innings, the Melbourne Eighteen scored but 92, making in all 209, being thus beaten by the England Eleven in one innings, with 96 runs to spare.

The next match was played between the Eleven and Twenty-two of the district of Beechworth. The Eleven, having scored 264 in their first innings, disposed of the Beechworth Twenty-two for 20 runs in the first and 56 in the second innings, and thus won the game by the one innings and 188 runs. Then followed a match between the Eleven and Twenty-two of Victoria and New South Wales. In their first innings the Twenty-two scored 153, and they disposed of the Eleven for 110 runs, thus obtaining for the first innings a majority of 43. In their second innings the Twenty-two obtained 144 runs, leaving the All-England Eleven 188 to get to win. The Eleven went in for their second innings, and, having scored 10 without the loss of a wicket, play was suspended. As the Eleven had an engagement at Geelong the game was pronounced a draw. On the 20th, 21st, and 22nd of January the Eleven played a match at Geelong with Twenty-two of the district. The Geelong men went in first, and made 111, the Twenty-two being supplemented by several players from Melbourne. In their second innings they made only 80. The Eleven scored 128 in their first innings, and it remained for Stephenson and Mudie to make up 64 with the aid of 13 "sundries," and thus finish the game by a majority of one run and nine wickets to fall. The Eleven proceeded on the 24th of January to Sydney, where they were to play twenty-two men of New South Wales.

The New South Wales cricketers are expected to give the English players a difficult task, for though not equal to the Victorians in batting and bowling, they far excel them in fielding. The first act of the drama in Victoria, therefore, closes upon the victory of the Eleven. Sufficient was shown, however, in the second match at Melbourne to make the colonial cricketers hopeful of being able to render a different account when the Eleven again visit them previous to their departure for England.

MAJOR-GENERAL GRANT.

MAJOR-GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT was born at Point Pleasant, Clairmont County, Ohio, on the 27th of April, 1822, and entered West Point Military Academy in 1839, where he graduated with honours in 1843, and was attached as brevet Second Lieutenant to the 4th Infantry. He was promoted Second Lieutenant in September, 1845, and served as such through Mexico, under General Taylor, at Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, and Monterey, and under General Scott from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico, and was twice promoted for his bravery. He was regimental Quartermaster from April 1, 1847; and when he resigned the service, on the 31st of July, 1854, he was a full Captain in the 4th Infantry of Regulars. After his resignation he settled in St. Louis County, Missouri, and moved from there to Galena, Illinois, in 1860. Upon the breaking out of the present war he offered his services to Governor Yates, and was appointed Colonel of the 21st Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, and served with his regiment until promoted to be a Brigadier-General, with commission and rank from the 17th of May, 1861. He was engaged as Colonel and acting Brigadier-General in several of the contests in south-eastern Missouri; and his course as commander of the south-east district of Missouri has been thoroughly scrutinised, and among his most praiseworthy acts was the occupation of Paducah, and stoppage of communication and supplies to the rebels via the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. The manner in which he conducted the battle of Belmont was highly commended. After the capture of Fort Henry a new district was created under the denomination of the district of West Tennessee, and General Grant was assigned by General Halleck to the command of it.



MAJOR-GENERAL GRANT, LEADER OF THE ATTACK ON FORT DONNELSON.

The latest and most important achievement of General Grant was the capture of Fort Donnellson, in which, it now appears, the Federals did not take 15,000 prisoners, but only from 7000 to 9000. This, however, does not detract from the merits of General Grant, who was at once created a Major-General by President Lincoln, and Congress have unanimously confirmed the appointment.

THE APOLLO GALLERY AT THE LOUVRE.

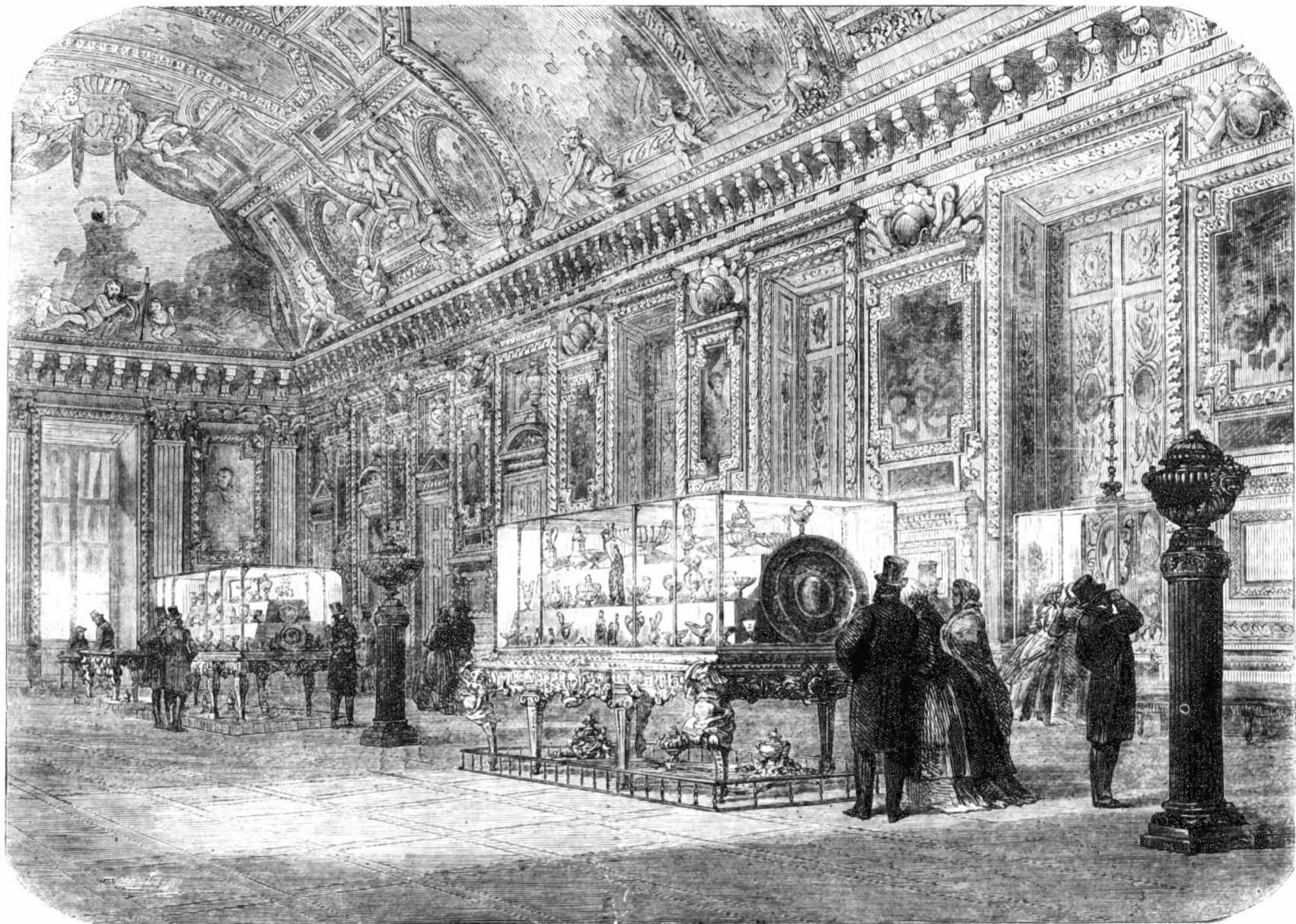
To write the history of the national art-treasures and the jewels of France it would be necessary to go back to the times of her Merovingian rulers, and to talk about the celebrated vase of Soissons—the ecclesiastical goblet which Clovis restored to the church from which his soldiers had stolen it. Many records of these things may still be found

in the histories of the successors of the half-barbarous founders of the French Monarchy under which the scattered golden ornaments and jewels were reunited, as it were, by the alliances which gathered the whole territory under one rule. In those early times the possession of these treasures marked the high consideration of the great families; and on every State occasion vases of bronze, cups and salvers of gold, goblets studded with gems or family jewels, were displayed to the utmost advantage as an indication of the wealth and power of their possessors. The precious metals and costly stones were introduced even into articles of furniture; and the Palace of Aix-la-Chapelle, above all, possessed marvels of costly decoration, amongst which were three tables, one of them of gold, upon which were represented the earth and the planets in basso relievo; the other two, of silver, containing representations of Constantinople and Rome.

But the thief's crucible was so often the destination of those of the treasures which were composed of the precious metals that for a long time, even during the epoch from Charlemagne to Louis XIV., the public were denied the opportunity of inspecting the marvels accumulated in the palace; and, indeed, many of them came to be preserved in the various churches and monasteries, to which they were consigned for safe keeping, and suspended in sanctuaries or concealed in their treasuries, which thus became transformed into valuable museums. Frequently, however, antique goblets and vases of agate and precious stones were also transformed into chalices, patens, and sacred vessels in order to contribute to the gorgeous displays in religious ceremonies under a pious disguise. The valuable gems and antique cameos served to ornament the holy vases, and the superb goldsmiths' work was adapted to decorate the shrines and the statues of the saints. Amongst the treasures thus deposited were many natural curiosities which in early times were of no small value, and constantly evoked the wonder of the common people, especially as even the more educated were grossly misinformed as to their real nature. In the fourteenth century it was customary, however, to display many of these curiosities together with the more valuable collection of Royal jewels, cups, and vases on State occasions, and they were preserved in a chamber devoted to the purpose in the Royal residence under the care of an officer called the argentier, a sort of intendant of the personal property of the Monarch. It was frequently the case that the greater portion of these treasures accompanied the Royal cortege in any journey made from one Royal residence to another, and on some occasions numerous strictly-guarded coffers were drawn in the Royal train—a proceeding which resulted, notwithstanding the care of those in charge, with the loss of several valuable pieces of plate.

It was at the Temple and at the Louvre that the jewels were preserved under King John in 1353—jewels of the same sort as those which are possessed by the Crown of France now in the Apollo Gallery, brought, no doubt, from the ancient Chamber of Argenterie. In the Louvre, too, were collected the wonderful possessions of Francis I., the ancient coins, silver ornaments, vases, figures, Indian vestments, and natural curiosities, many of these objects being discovered in the various ancient religious houses which were suppressed at the Revolution. It is to Francis I. and his successors that we owe the greater part of the vases, precious stones, and rock crystals which are seen in the Gallery of Apollo; and Catherine de Medicis, when she went to France, added to its treasures.

To the same gallery and the adjoining apartments have been carried, at various times, the valuable works of art accumulated at Versailles (many of them moved thither from other palaces) by Louis XIV., and to these are now added a vast number of exquisite works of art, carvings in ivory, specimens of Palissy ware, Japan lacquer-work, and other objects of interest.



THE NEW APOLLO GALLERY AT THE LOUVRE.

CONCERTS.

THE Philharmonic Society gave their second concert this season on Monday evening, leading off with Spohr's famous symphony, "The Power of Sound," as it is called, in defiance of the composer's intention and of the German language. It was followed by a string of equally well-known masterpieces. The picturesque character of the composition which opened this concert was not heightened by Dr. Bennett's tendency to retard rather than accelerate the time, after the perhaps vulgar manner of leaders quick to perceive "good moments" of effect. At several points we felt that Dr. Bennett was approaching a dull Scylla in his careful avoidance of a rapidly-whirling Charybdis. That the "Cradle Song" for the clarinet, with which the second movement of the symphony opens, was somewhat injured by being taken so slowly was the impression of many hearers. After "Die Weihe der Töne," Mlle. Parepa sang the air "Non mi dir," which has long enjoyed the distinction, together with its recitative, "Crudele! Ah, no," of being customarily omitted from performances of "Don Giovanni." Miss Arabella Goddard followed, with Dr. Bennett's caprice in E, for pianoforte; and next came Mr. Tennant, with a most effective rendering of Glück's beautiful melody, "Our hearts in childhood mourn," from the "Iphigenia in Tauris." The first part concluded with Mendelssohn's "Athalie" overture, against the performance of which by the band not a word can be said. The constituent features of the second division were equally agreeable. The symphony was that of Beethoven in F, the last but one of his series of nine. The duet from "Don Pasquale," "Tornami a dir che m'ami," was sung by Mlle. Parepa and Mr. Tennant; Bach's prelude and fugue "Alla Tarantella" came next; and the concert was terminated by Weber's overture to "Oberon."

The second of the three concerts of chamber music for this season by Messrs. Klindworth, H. Blagrove, Deichmann, R. Blagrove, and Daubert, was given on Tuesday evening at Hanover-square Rooms. The programme was headed by Rubinstein's quintet in F (op. 55), for pianoforte, flute, clarinet, horn, and bassoon. Mr. Klindworth was associated in this performance with Messrs. Svensen, Pollard, C. Harper, and Hauser. In Mozart's quartet for stringed instruments in D (No. 10) the players were Messrs. Deichmann, Zerbini, R. Blagrove, and Daubert. Beethoven's sonata in C (op. 102, No. 1), for pianoforte and violoncello, was apportioned to Messrs. Klindworth and Daubert; and the trio in B flat (op. 90) of Schubert, for piano, violin, and violoncello, fell to the same artists, with the reinforcement of Mr. Deichmann. Miss Susanna Cole's singing interspersed the efforts of the well-known instrumentalists who contributed to the attractions of this concert.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

THE aspect of the interior of the building is just now perfectly bewildering. Every conceivable description of work is going on at once, and all are being hurried at the utmost speed of which human labour is capable. The scaffolds are being taken almost from under the very feet of the decorators at work upon the dome belts; stray roof-panels are being glazed in all about, and walls and columns painted. As fast as loads of goods stream in at one place loads of cases and rubbish pour out at others. As fast as the flooring goes down it is cut about and pulled up again for foundations. A perfect maze, an inextricable labyrinth of courts and partitions, is rising everywhere, springing out of the waste of chips and straw, and shavings, and empty cases, and all amid such a din of saws and hammers, falling beams, cracking of whips, shouts, and directions as was probably never heard under one roof before—no, not even in 1851, which is saying a great deal in a few words. The long-expected rush has fairly begun, and it is difficult to believe, what is really the case, that it will be even worse yet before all is in order for the 1st of May. This activity on the part of the exhibitors is not shown a day too soon, and they have still much lost ground to make up, which they can only recover by diligent persistence in their present course. Their goods are now coming in very fast, and there are a great many glass cases being erected, some of which are remarkably good and handsome. As far as we have yet seen, the English cases will contrast most favourably with those of the foreigners, most of which, even in the French court, are of the plainest description. The statistics of the foreign deliveries up to the present time show that France, Belgium, the Zollverein, Switzerland, and Holland, are the first in the field with anything like large contributions. France has sent about 600 cases of machinery and general merchandise; Belgium about 350 cases; the Zollverein about 1150 cases; Switzerland about 500 cases; and Holland about 100. Russia, at present, has only sent about 60 cases; and the other States which have put in a slight appearance are Rome, Denmark, and Norway.

The western annex for machinery is being rapidly completed, and many most important specimens of engines are already fixed. The eastern annex is not by any means so forward. An almost unaccountable decorative mistake is being committed in this last-named building. It is said that there is not time to paint all the interior as it ought to be done, and the difficulty is being got over by taking lines of colour few and far between over the dirty unplanned rough timber of the roof and sides. If this had been done in the western annex, where the dust caused by the machinery in motion and an occasional escape of steam might have been alleged as an excuse for not painting, it would not have seemed so bad. But to daub here and there one of the main thoroughfares into the building, and one which contains such important classes as mining and minerals, chemistry, food, and raw materials, is a blunder in taste which is merely unintelligible and which will excite the ridicule of all who see it. It is not so much a question of time, and, even if it were, we cannot help thinking it ought to be painted even if the work had to go on after the building was opened. The cost cannot be a matter of much consideration, though it would undoubtedly be another item added to the enormous outlay the commissioners have already incurred.

Now that a large portion of the scaffolding erected for putting the domes together is removed, the appearance of these extending works becomes still more unsatisfactory. The dark masses of timber served to fill up the vast space, and give something like solidity and firmness to the domes. Now that they are completed they look thoroughly unfinished. The eye searches for something to occupy the vast space. The domes of St. Peter's and of St. Paul's, and others with which these monster creations have been so pompously compared, have dignity, solidity, and weight; but these are fragile, light, and meaningless. They suggest the idea of gigantic bird-cages without tenants; or, as one of the pupils of the Department of Science and Art, not having the fear of Captain Fowke before his eyes, called them, "traps to catch sunbeams." The interior is somewhat more satisfactory, as the masses of colour on the cornice and cap produce a contrast with the vast area of glass. The broad belt or hoop from which the dome springs is painted blue, and upon it, in immense yellow letters, are the words, "O Lord! both riches and honour come of Thee. Thou reignest over all; and in Thine hand is power and might; and in Thine hand it is to make great." We are not aware who is responsible for the selection, but, considering that one of the Royal commissioners is also President of the Committee of Council on Education, it would have been as well if some attention had been paid to certain very elementary rules of one Lindley Murray. The syntax of the dome is matched by the orthography of the transepts, where the visitor will find some curious readings of names of foreign countries and British colonies, not the least interesting of which is "British Guinea."

Nothing has yet been definitely settled as to those who are to be present from foreign Courts at the opening ceremony, though it may be taken as certain that the King of the Belgians, the King of

Portugal, the Crown Prince of Prussia, the Prince Napoleon, and the Prince of Orange will be invited. The invitations will be sent in the names of the second Royal Commission empowered by her Majesty to act for her on this occasion—viz., the Duke of Cambridge, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Derby, and Viscount Palmerston.

THE SECOND LIFE GUARDS.

FOR a considerable time the 2nd Life Guards as a regiment has been going down hill. We can obtain officers for the West India Regiments or the Gold Coast Corps, but not enough to fill the ranks of this once favourite household regiment. Retirements have been frequent, accessions scarce. Generally speaking, it has had no more than half of its proper complement of subalterns for the last seven or eight years. Complaints of irregularity and laxity against those who set an example of discipline have been made. The corps, in almost every respect, appears to have fallen into a most unfortunate and unsatisfactory state, and we only hope that the occurrence to which we allude may have the effect of bringing matters to a crisis. A military contemporary states that one of the junior officers, who had lately come from one of the smartest corps of the Line, had occasion to find fault with some of the details which it was his duty to look after, and inflict a small punishment on those who were in fault. On his next appearance he was greeted with groanings and howlings, and on bringing his Captain to sustain him the latter was treated with a similar display of derisive insubordination. The commanding officer would appear to live in London, although the regiment was at Windsor; but on his next visit this serious affair was duly brought to his notice. He examined some of the men who were supposed to be implicated, but neither of the officers in whose persons the Queen's authority was so disgracefully insulted. He intimated to the subaltern that he is not again to punish the men, and, as regards the latter, appears to have told them that they must be better boys in future. The astonishing part of the case is that he absolutely makes no report whatever to the authorities, who first learned the fact from the columns of our military contemporary. We are glad to say that the Duke of Cambridge acted with the most praiseworthy promptitude, and General Lawrenson, the Inspector of Cavalry, was dispatched to Windsor to make a preliminary inquiry into the whole circumstances.

We have now only to hope that, when he is well informed, his Royal Highness will show a firmness in dealing with this matter equal to the promptitude with which he has taken it up. So sad an example of an insubordinate spirit and lax discipline seldom occurs even in a corps subject to all the disturbing influences of colonial service in detachments. That it should take place in a picked regiment, part of the body guard of the Queen, and always quartered in the vicinity of a Royal Palace, is shocking to those who are interested in maintaining the interest and discipline of the Army. Such an occurrence in such a regiment plainly argues something very rotten in the administration of the corps, and in the present instance it is plainly pointed out that to the commanding officer, Colonel Mountjoy Martyn, is to be a great degree attributed the wretched state of the 2nd Life Guards. There are several overt acts alleged against him, although tending to show his unfitness to command a regiment which requires constant care for and active interest in its welfare. The Horse Guards' inquiry, we hope, will not be confined to this particular incident, which in reality would appear to be but an exemplification of a state of things long existing and afflicting the regiment. If it is true that Colonel Martyn resides in town while his regiment is at Windsor, we think he might as well make way for somebody who could at least manage to reside with the regiment, and resign a command he exercises only nominally, unless vexatiously, and to the prejudice of regimental discipline. To be productive of good results, the inquiry must be comprehensive and searching, it must take cognisance of the relations between Colonel Martyn and his officers, and of the manner in which field-officers' duties are discharged or omitted to be discharged. We believe a full inquiry to be essential to a satisfactory result. It is required for the sake of the interests of the regiment, and it is demanded by the public, to whom the 2nd Life Guards threaten to become little else than an expensive nuisance.—*Globe*.

THE COURT-MARTIAL ON CAPTAIN ROBERTSON.—The court-martial on Captain Robertson has at length come to an end, after having lasted for thirty days, so far at least as the public proceedings of the Court are concerned. On Monday Colonel Browning, the prosecutor, read his reply upon the whole case, commenting at great length on the prisoner's defence, which, he insisted, had utterly failed, while the evidence in support of the original charges remained unshaken. The judgment of the Court will not be known till it has been submitted to his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief.

PRESENTATION TO MAJOR MAYNE, LATE OF THE QUEEN'S (WESTMINSTER) VOLUNTEERS.—Major Mayne, late Adjutant of the Queen's (Westminster), being about to proceed to Peterhead, in Scotland, to undertake duties similar to those he has so efficiently discharged in the metropolis, a large number of the members of his late corps met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday evening week, and presented a handsome testimonial to the gallant Major in token of their satisfaction with the manner in which he had performed the onerous duties attached to the position he lately held in the corps, and of their esteem and respect for him as an officer and a gentleman. The testimonial, which consisted of a massive silver tankard, bearing a suitable inscription, and a purse of sovereigns, the value of the whole being upwards of 100 guineas, was accompanied with an address, to which Major Mayne made an eloquent and feeling reply. About 100 of the subscribers afterwards supped together, and spent a most agreeable and profitable evening; the parting words of counsel and encouragement addressed to them by their late Major and Adjutant being especially valuable and in excellent taste. Captain Styan presided in a very efficient manner; and, after the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been duly honoured, proposed a bumper to the health and future happiness and prosperity of Major Mayne, which was enthusiastically drunk and gracefully acknowledged. The following toasts were also given in the course of the evening:—"The Volunteer Movement," "The Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Queen's (Westminster)," "The Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Privates of the Corps," "The Chairman, Captain Styan," "The Ladies," "The Press," &c. The proceedings were likewise enlivened by some excellent songs by Ensign Lawrence, Sergeant Warner, Major Mayne, Mr. Draper, and other gentlemen.

THE CASE OF THE LABUAN.—The case of the Labuan is likely to create embarrassment in our relations with the American Governments unless Mr. Seward acts in the spirit of fairness and conciliation which he says he is so anxious to pursue. She is a British vessel, chartered by merchants in Manchester, who are owners of a quantity of cotton in the town of Matamoros, which is situated on the right bank of the Rio Grande, directly opposite to Texas; and she was lying at anchor in the port of that place, and loading with that cotton, when she was seized by the United States' cruiser Portsmouth, and sent into New York for adjudication on the ground that she was taking in a cargo of Texan cotton. Lord Lyons addressed a note on the subject to Mr. Seward, who has not yet sent a reply on the merits of the case or on the course to be pursued by his Government; but, as he has promised that the United States will make reparation if in error, it is probable the vessel will be released, and compensation made for her detention, if the statement of the master be found substantially correct.

Kew Gardens.—There were no less than 480,070 visitors to Kew Gardens in 1861, by far the largest number in any year: 189,402 came on Sundays; 13,399 on one Sunday in June, the largest attendance on any day in the year. The past year saw the erection of the magnificent spar of Douglas pine, 159 feet long—a superb pole, unrivalled in Europe for height, symmetry, and excellence of material. It was presented by Mr. E. Stamp. Standing among fine trees, which, however, are not much more than half its height, it serves to show the public the enormous size of the timber trees of our new colony of British Columbia. The cinchona (trees yielding quinine) sent to the Neillherrie Hills (Sir W. J. Hooker says) are flourishing, and there are now upwards of 8000 plants in most vigorous growth, while there are 2170 more at Kew, which will be ready for transmission to India at the proper season. The experiment has been successful, too, in Ceylon and in Jamaica, as far as it has gone, but of the seeds sent to Trinidad not one has germinated.

DARING ATTEMPT OF CONVICTS TO ESCAPE FROM CHATHAM.—During the time a party of convicts were employed at Chatham Dockyard on Saturday afternoon last, in breaking up one of the old vessels of war now being taken to pieces near St. Mary's Creek, three desperate characters, named John Keen, alias Keenan, Robert Harbord, alias Burns, and Joseph Jones, alias Rothwell, contrived to effect their escape in a very daring manner, by jumping into a boat, which was lying close to the creek, in which they crossed the river. Before, however, they had reached the opposite side their escape was discovered, and they were given chase to and recaptured as they were making across the country.

MR. AND MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT.—A new first part, entitled "The Family Legend; or, Heads and Tales," by Tom Taylor, Esq., is announced for Monday next. It takes the place of "Our Card Basket," which has had a run of more than three hundred nights. We hear that this new selection of character will place Mr. and Mrs. German Reed and Mr. John Parry more advantageously than ever before the public, and that the vocal as well as histrionic abilities of the trio will be liberally displayed. The scenery is by Grieve and Tobin, and will introduce effects hitherto unattempted at this popular place of amusement.

UNPRECEDENTED MUNIFICENCE.

THE following letter, explaining a scheme of benevolence which may well be called unprecedented, has been made public through the newspapers:—

London, March 12, 1862.

Gentlemen,—In reference to the intention which it is the object of this letter to communicate, I am desirous to explain that from a comparatively early period of my commercial life I had resolved in my own mind that, should my labours be blessed with success, I would devote a portion of the property thus acquired to promote the intellectual, moral, and physical welfare and comfort of my fellow-men, wherever, from circumstances of location, their claims upon me would be the strongest.

A kind Providence has continued me in prosperity, and consequently, in furtherance of my resolution, I, in the year 1852, founded an institute and library, for the benefit of the people of the place of my birth, in the town of Danvers, in the State of Massachusetts, the result of which has proved in every respect most beneficial to the locality and gratifying to myself.

After an absence of twenty years, I visited my native land in 1857, and founded in the city of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland (where more than twenty years of my business life had been passed), an institute upon a much more extended scale, devoted to science and the arts, with a free library, coinciding with the character of the institution. The corner-stone was laid in 1858, and the building is now completed, but its dedication has been postponed in consequence of the unhappy sectional differences at present prevailing in the United States.

It is now twenty-five years since I commenced my residence and business in London as a stranger; but I did not long feel myself a "stranger" or in a "strange land," for in all my commercial and social intercourse with my British friends during that long period, I have constantly received courtesy, kindness, and confidence. Under a sense of gratitude for these blessings of a kind Providence, encouraged by early associations, and stimulated by my views as well of duty as of inclination to follow the path which I had heretofore marked out for my guidance, I have been prompted for several years past repeatedly to state to some of my confidential friends my intention at no distant period, if my life was spared, to make a donation for the benefit of the poor of London. Among those friends are three of the number to whom I have now the honour to address this letter. To my particular friend C. M. Lamson, Esq., I first mentioned the subject five years ago. My next conversation in relation to it was held about three years since with my esteemed friend Sir James Emerson Tennent, and with my partner, J. S. Morgan, Esq. I also availed myself of opportunities to consult the Right Rev. Bishop McIlvaine, of Ohio, and with all these gentlemen I have since freely conversed upon the subject in a way to confirm that original intention.

My object being to ameliorate the condition of the poor and needy of this great metropolis and to promote their comfort and happiness, I take pleasure in apprising you that I have determined to transfer to you the sum of £150,000, which now stands available for this purpose on the books of Messrs. George Peabody and Co.

In committing to you, in full confidence in your judgment, the administration of this fund, I cannot but feel grateful to you for the onerous duties you have so cheerfully undertaken to perform; and I sincerely hope and trust that the benevolent feelings that have prompted a devotion of so much of your valuable time will be appreciated not only by the present but future generations of the people of London.

I have few instructions to give or conditions to impose, but there are some fundamental principles from which it is my solemn injunction that those intrusted with its application shall never, under any circumstances, depart.

First and foremost among them is the limitation of its uses absolutely and exclusively to such purposes as may be calculated directly to ameliorate the condition and augment the comforts of the poor who, either by birth or established residence, form a recognised portion of the population of London.

Secondly, it is my intention that now and for all time there shall be a rigid exclusion from the management of this fund of any influences calculated to impart to it a character either sectarian as regards religion or exclusive in relation to local or party politics.

Thirdly, in conformity with the foregoing conditions, it is my wish and intention that the sole qualifications for a participation in the benefits of this fund shall be an ascertained and continued condition of life such as brings the individual within the description (in the ordinary sense of the word) of "the poor" of London, combined with moral character and good conduct as a member of society. It must therefore be held to be a violation of my intentions if any duly qualified and deserving claimant were to be excluded either on the grounds of religious belief or of political bias.

Without in the remotest degree desiring to limit your discretion in the selection of the most suitable means of giving effect to these objects, I may be permitted to throw out for your consideration, among the other projects which will necessarily occupy your attention, whether it may not be found conducive to the conditions specified above for their ultimate realisation, and least likely to present difficulties on the grounds I have pointed out for avoidance, to apply the fund, or a portion of it, in the construction of such improved dwellings for the poor as may combine in the utmost possible degree the essentials of healthfulness, comfort, social enjoyment, and economy.

Preparatory to due provision being made for the formal declaration of the trust, and for its future management and appropriation, the sum of £150,000 will be at once transferred into your names and placed at your disposal, for which purpose I reserve to myself full power and authority; but, as a portion of the money may probably not be required for some time to come to meet the legitimate purposes contemplated, I would suggest that as early as possible after the organisation of the trust £100,000 should be invested for the time being in your names, in Consols or East India Stock, thus adding to the capital by means of the accruing interest; and the stock so purchased can be gradually sold out as the money is wanted for the objects designated. Meantime, pending the preparation of a formal trust deed, you shall be under no responsibility whatever in respect of the fund, or its investment or disposition.

With these preliminary stipulations I commit the fund to your management and to that of such other persons as by a majority of your voices you may elect, giving you the power either to add to your number (which, I think, should not at any time exceed nine) or to supply casual vacancies occurring in your body. It is my further desire that the United States' Minister in London for the time being should always, in virtue of the office, be a member of the trust, unless in the event of his signifying his inability to act in discharge of the duties.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, yours very faithfully,

GEORGE PEABODY.

To his Excellency Charles Francis Adams, United States'

Minister in London.

Right Hon. Lord Stanley, M.P.

Sir James Emerson Tennent, K.C.S., L.L.C., &c., London.

C. M. Lamson, Esq., London.

J. S. Morgan, Esq., London.

A letter has also been published from the five gentlemen named accepting the honour-trust reposed in them by Mr. Peabody.

THE QUEEN'S SORROW.—The Duke of Cambridge presided at the dinner of the Benevolent Society of St. Patrick a few days ago, and in reference to the toast of "The Royal Family" said that, out of respect to the Queen's great grief, he would ask them to drink her health in solemn silence. The Queen only could fully realise the greatness of the bereavement which had fallen upon her and on the country. He had had the honour of seeing her Majesty that day, and though she had borne up under her visitation with a fortitude which had excited the admiration and sympathy of all, still, said his Royal Highness, I believe that many—very many—years must elapse before she will recover from her misfortune, if, indeed, she ever entirely recovers from it during lifetime at all.

NATIONAL LIFE-BOT INSTITUTION.—DONATION FROM T. J. AGAR-ROBERTS, Esq., M.P.—This benevolent gentleman has intimated his intention to contribute £150 towards the establishment of a life-bot in connection with the National Life-bot Institution at Port Leven, near the Land's End. Mr. Roberts had previously, in conjunction with the Hon. Mrs. Agar, presented £250 through that institution towards the cost of the Lizard life-bot station. He had also liberally contributed towards the expense of the life-bot stations at Fowey, Penzance, Newquay, and St. Ives, on the Cornish coast. It is earnestly hoped that the Duchy of Cornwall and the influential residents of that county will assist the institution in keeping up on the Cornish coast its numerous life-bot establishments in a state of efficiency.—A thankoffering of £20 10s. 7d. has been received by the National Life-bot Institution from P. A. W., A. G. W., M. G. W., E. F. W., and S. G. W.

THE DONAPARTS AND THE PAPAL AUTHORITIES.—The *Nazione* of Florence of the 11th relates the following occurrence:—"Prince Anthony Bonaparte a few days ago left Florence, where he is settled, for Rome, on private business, and after a short stay prepared to return by Civita Vecchia. On arriving at the railway terminus with this intention the Papal police officers asked him for his passport, which he produced. The passport was a French one; and a visa or two being wanting on it the Prince was sent back by the police! His Highness immediately went and complained of this discourteous behaviour to the French authorities, who at once had him escorted to the station by a French picket to prevent his being any further annoyed."

CLARIBEL'S NEW SONG.
FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING.
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